

NEWS

in brief

Mordechai to Cairo to meet Mubarak

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai is paying a short visit to Cairo today for a meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. It is to be the second encounter between Mordechai and Mubarak; the last meeting was in December 1996. Defense Ministry officials said Mordechai aims to deepen his personal ties with the Egyptian leader during the planned three-hour meeting.

Mordechai is also to brief Mubarak on the negotiations with the Palestinians and discuss ways of breaking the impasse in the peace talks.

The defense minister also hopes to raise the Israeli initiative to work towards a negotiated withdrawal from Lebanon based on UN Security Council Resolution 425.

Defense officials said that the proliferation of nuclear weapons is not on the agenda, but did not dismiss the possibility that the topic could be addressed. Mordechai is scheduled to return here this afternoon. *Arieh O'Sullivan*

Kabul accepts Israeli aid offer

Afghanistan has accepted Israel's offer of humanitarian aid for the survivors of the massive earthquake that struck its remote northeastern region, the Foreign Ministry announced yesterday.

Spokesman Efi Ben-Matityahu said an emergency team consisting of military personnel and disaster specialists is stockpiling blankets, tents and pharmaceuticals for immediate airlift to the stricken central Asian country. Story, Page 7 *Jay Bushinsky*

Settlers to begin PR campaign against pullback

The Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza is to distribute some one million pamphlets warning the public of the danger it says lies ahead if any further redeployment takes place.

The pamphlets are part of an intensive public relation campaign that will focus on how a further withdrawal in the West Bank would affect the settlements, water resources and national and security interests.

The council is also preparing a documentary film that would demonstrate how settlements will be isolated and residents forced to cross Palestinian-controlled areas to reach their homes. *Margot Dudkevitch*

Ateret Cohanim dedicates Moslem Quarter eatery

A banquet hall and restaurant that sits on the edge of the Moslem Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City was dedicated yesterday in the presence of Mayor Ehud Olmert. It is owned by the Ateret Cohanim Association, which Olmert praised.

"House after house, we will build Jerusalem," the mayor said.

The restaurant, located next to the security booth at the entrance to the Western Wall Plaza on Hagai Street, opened on Independence Day but was officially dedicated yesterday. *Elli Wohlgeterner*

Shahak leaves for Belgium

Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin Shahak left yesterday for a working visit to Belgium. Shahak, who retires in four weeks, will be the guest of his Belgian counterpart, the army said. During his visit, he will meet with the Belgian minister of defense and visit army bases.

Accompanying Shahak are commanders of an armored battalion and a battalion of combat engineers.

Shahak has embarked on a string of visits abroad, most recently the U.S. But last month he canceled a scheduled trip to India after it tested nuclear bombs. *Arieh O'Sullivan*

Saudi firm to show APC at Paris expo

Saudi Arabia's Al-Fatih Heavy Industries said yesterday it would display the kingdom's first domestically built armored personnel carrier (APC) at an exhibition in Paris this month.

A company statement said two versions of the APC, Al-Fahd 1 and Al-Fahd 2, would be shown at the Eurosatory exhibition which opens today.

The statement said the vehicle, manufactured at a plant in Dammam, eastern Saudi Arabia, was developed without any foreign involvement and was not based on any existing APC. *Reuters*

Psychologists, union leaders meet Netanyahu

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu met yesterday with representatives of educational psychologists, who are in the midst of sanctions to gain salary increases and improvements in their working conditions.

A statement released by the Histadrut, whose officials attended the meeting, said Netanyahu responded sympathetically. He gave assurances the matter would be discussed by a special ministerial committee and that decisions regarding the dispute would be made "in a short time." *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Arab journalists visit

A delegation of senior Jordanian, Moroccan, and Algerian journalists arrived here yesterday. Their trip is sponsored by the Foreign Ministry and the Beit Gefen community center in Haifa.

Haifa Mayor Amram Mizna hosted several delegation members yesterday. Today they are to meet with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and visit the Foreign Ministry. They also are scheduled to meet with Israeli journalists. *Irim*

TA must refund taxes to discharged soldiers

Newly discharged soldiers, who paid municipal taxes (*armona*) to the Tel Aviv Municipality during their mandatory service, are eligible for a refund from the city, Tel Aviv District Court Judge Rina Meshel ruled yesterday. She upheld the claim of a newly discharged soldier, who said the local law conflicted with national law, and declared her suit a class-action suit. The court also ordered the Tel Aviv Municipality to place advertisements reporting the decision in *Motzev* and *Yedioth Aharonot* within two weeks. *Irim*

MIA activists meet Russian ambassador to seek more info

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Russian Ambassador Mikhail Bogdanov yesterday met with Yona Baumei, the father of MIA Zachary Baumei, and Daniel Grisar, spokesman for the International Coalition of MIAs, to discuss recent reports concerning two tanks currently exhibited in a museum in Kobinka, 100 kilometers west of Moscow.

They also asked for assistance in obtaining more information regarding the MIAs from the Sultan Yacoub battle during the Lebanon War.

Bogdanov promised to ask Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov to open the state archives and allow Baumei and members of the coalition to visit the museum.

Grisar said that Bogdanov

would also check how the tanks arrived in Moscow.

"There were some six tanks left in the area where the battle took place and we are trying to determine if any more tanks were sent to Russia and also if there were any personal belongings in them," he said.

Grisar said that Bogdanov said he did not believe the initial reports that claimed the two tanks, apparently from the Yom Kippur War, exhibited at the museum contained artillery shells or personal belongings of the IDF soldiers.

Following the 90-minute meeting, Baumei and Grisar met with Yosef Kalash, head of the Syrian Jewish community.

Grisar said Kalash confirmed that members of the Jewish community in Damascus were approached by the son of

Mustapha Ahmed, the local Fatah commander, to prepare kosher meals for five Israeli POWs on the eve of Pesach in 1983.

Kalash said the meals were handed over to Fatah officials, along with kippot and Hagagadot and all the necessary ingredients for a kosher Seder.

Grisar said Kalash also confirmed reports that 10 members of the Jewish community witnessed the burial of four coffins brought by Syrian and Fatah officials to the local Jewish cemetery.

Kalash said that some of those taking part in the burial team said one of the coffins was so heavy it needed six men to carry it and it broke open to reveal a mass of green-colored metal. The other three coffins, he said, were extremely light and probably empty.

No cabinet decision on pullback

By JAY BUSHINSKY

A cabinet decision on the scope of the IDF's next pullback in the West Bank failed to materialize yesterday. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu not only kept it off the weekly session's agenda, but also let other matters—international and domestic—take precedence over it.

"We did not advance and nothing was decided," a senior minister said, referring to the outcome of the inner cabinet meeting that preceded the ministerial plenum.

Seasoned observers had expected the inner cabinet to pave the way to a package deal purportedly cleared by Netanyahu with the US as well as the Palestinian Authority.

Reassessing their analysis of the prime minister's tactics, some of these monitors of cabinet proceedings contended that he chose to mark time in the light of the dramatic change in the regional balance of power caused by Pakistan's successful detonation of several nuclear devices.

Netanyahu opened the cabinet

meeting by declaring that "the Pakistani-Indian issue [a reference to the two neighboring states' recent nuclear tests] concretizes the danger to the stability of the region and the world if regimes like those of Iran and Iraq are equipped with atomic weapons."

The delay ran counter to the reported telephone conversation yesterday between Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and PA Chairman Yasser Arafat, in which the scope of the IDF withdrawal was the dominant theme.

Agence France-Presse reported last Wednesday that PA spokesman Nabil Abu Rudeineh said that Albright had asked Arafat for "a one-week to 10-day extension" so that she could continue with her direct contacts with Israel, it reported.

Netanyahu told the cabinet there had been no progress in the peace process in the interim and that talks, mainly by telephone with State Department Peace Envoy Dennis Ross, were under way with regard to the second and third redeployments required by the

Oslo Accords.

Science Minister Michael Eitan told Irim "the ball is in the American court" to the extent that the US promised Arafat that there would be headway toward a second and third redeployment.

"It is necessary to set up a security arrangement that will prevent a deterioration and stabilize the situation for a long period while at the same time facilitating the development of steady relations between Israelis and Palestinians without harming Israel's security interests," Eitan reportedly said.

Sheetrit asks Labor for redeployment safety net

By LIAT COLLINS

Coalition whip Meir Sheetrit yesterday called on the Labor Party to support Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu in a Knesset vote on the second redeployment and to provide a political safety net if the vote is turned into a motion of no-confidence.

Senior Labor MKs met with party leader Ehud Barak to discuss the proposal and decided not to take any position yet.

Sheetrit, in an Israel Radio interview, said he would call on Netanyahu to bring the second redeployment up for a vote without worrying about the threat by MKs on the far right to vote against it.

He said he is convinced at least some opposition MKs would support the government. "I find it hard to believe that if the redeployment comes up, they [the opposition] would vote against it. I think it would be suicidal for them."

"If the aim of all of us, both on the Left and the Right, and the aim of the government and prime minister, is to speedily complete the second redeployment and go on to the final-status arrangements, the way [Labor] can help further the peace process is to clearly announce that if the second redeployment is brought to the Knesset for its approval, it will support it even in a motion of no-confidence."

MK Hagai Merom (Labor), who supports the safety net idea, is asking that it be discussed at the Labor faction meeting today.

"It won't be easy and there will be differences of opinion, but if we want to be able to look the public in the eye and appear as the ones who really won't close an opening for peace if such an opening exists, we must vote in favor of the redeployment or at least abstain, if it is politically inconvenient, and allow the redeployment to go ahead," he said. "If the prime minister does not pick up the gauntlet, the people and voters will know that there was no true intention [for peace] and that is also important to expose."

He said Labor should not try to topple the government over the redeployment, but should make it clear that this support is only on this issue.

MK Haim Ramon called Merom's thinking "completely twisted logic." He said that under Merom's thinking, Labor would not be able to file a motion of no-confidence for the entire period during which the redeployment would be carried out or even longer because of the start of the talks on final status.

MK Ephraim Oshaya, the only Labor MK who voted against the Hebron Agreement, said that the party should not support redeployment in the form currently being discussed.

MK Hanan Porat (National Religious Party) called on the prime minister to ignore Sheetrit's call for a safety net.

"A safety net won't help a prime minister who loses the trust of senior members of his coalition," he said.



Palestinian women chant slogans and hold up pictures of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails during a sit-in at International Committee of the Red Cross headquarters in Gaza yesterday. Six Palestinians were arrested yesterday for illegally entering Israel from Gaza. (Reuters)

Suspected infiltrators crash into IDF jeep

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN and MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

An IDF jeep collided with a car filled with Palestinians trying to sneak into Israel from the Gaza Strip yesterday morning, the IDF Spokesman said.

Two soldiers and two Palestinians were injured when the driver of the private vehicle rammed the jeep, the army said.

One of the soldiers was moderately injured and the other suffered light injuries. The condition of the Palestinians was not immediately known.

The army said that six Palestinians had attempted to infiltrate into Israel. They drove off in a waiting car with yellow Israeli plates. When a passing IDF border patrol jeep tried to block their way, the driver of the

car rammed the jeep.

The suspected infiltrators, as well as their driver, were all detained and taken to a questioning, military source said.

The injured were taken to the spot and then taken to Barzilai Hospital in Ashdod, the army said.

In a separate incident, assailants opened fire on two Israeli vehicles south of Bethlehem yesterday afternoon. No one was injured in the attack, though a bullet penetrated one of the cars, the IDF Spokesman said.

OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan ordered roadblocks set up in the area to check Palestinian vehicles. Dayan also beefed up security forces activities in the area and called for additional measures to be taken.

Security forces said this attack

was probably the work of a terrorist cell operating in the area that has carried out several shooting attacks over the past weeks.

A resident of Bat Ein, in Gush Etzion, said two assailants opened fire at his car and at a bus travelling behind him near Bethlehem and then fled.

The IDF Spokesman said security forces arriving in the area found several empty shell cases of 9mm bullets and two sets of footprints leading to the nearby village of El-Khader in Area B. Security forces searched the village for the perpetrators.

IDF officials said the incident was extremely serious, especially as the attackers appeared to be operating in areas under Palestinian control.

An Israeli vehicle was shot at near near Har Homa 10 days ago.

Palestinian dies following suspicious blast at Nablus soap factory

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH and MOHAMMED RAJIB

A 25-year-old Palestinian died early yesterday morning of wounds sustained in a bomb blast at the Dasuki Soap Factory near Nablus at around midnight Friday night.

Palestinian security officials declared the explosion was a work-related accident.

Other Palestinian sources, however, claimed the factory is owned by a known Hamas activist and hinted a bomb may have gone off as it was being prepared. These sources said it was unlikely an ordinary work accident would have occurred so late at night.

Naeim Mohammed Issawi, 25, from the Balata Al-Ballad village near Nablus, died at the government hospital in Ramallah, where Mohammed Shandi, 26, who was also hurt in the blast, is still being treated.

An official of the Palestinian Preventive Security Service claimed that the explosion had been investigated and it appeared to be a work accident, and not related to any organizations in the area.

Meanwhile, members of Force 17, the elite Palestinian unit that guards Yasser Arafat, were, according to Palestinian sources, ordered to beat up the secretary of Bethlehem Governor Col. Munzer Irshaid, because of an article he published in the *Al Quds* daily

newspaper last week. The article accused the Bethlehem region commander of Force 17, Col. Kefah Barakat, of confiscating land to build his own private villa.

Palestinian sources in Bethlehem claimed that West Bank Preventive Security head Jibril Rajoub and head of the Palestinian General Intelligence Brig.-Gen. Tawfik Tirawi had intervened in an attempt to solve the dispute between Barakat and Irshaid.

Meanwhile, a Palestinian journalist was detained by members of the Preventive Security Service in Bethlehem for questions he asked during an interview with Mahmoud Zahar, a senior Hamas leader in the Gaza Strip.

had not deliberately fired at civilians but at suspected terrorists, including in the case of the shepherd and his son.

No specific instructions were given to northern residents, although Kuryat Shmona Mayor Haim Barbeval said it might be advisable to spend the night in security rooms as a precaution.

Several months ago, Ben-Ruby said, police warned Arab residents against illegally setting up private security companies in eastern Jerusalem.

Several Arab residents complained to mosque officials about the men's activities.

The Khankua mosque, which is located in the Christian quarter, published a leaflet last week accusing PSS officials of using their position to manipulate residents and extort money for their own personal profit. The leaflet also called on PA Chairman Yasser Arafat to act against the armed men.

CLARIFICATION: Shabtai Tevet characterizes himself as a "critic" of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, and not a "detractor," as written in Friday's *Jerusalem Post*.

Bar-Ilan: Arab summit won't help peace process

By JAY BUSHINSKY and news agencies

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's efforts to convene an Arab summit conference on the peace process were assailed yesterday by David Bar-Ilan, communications adviser to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, as a violation of the Oslo Accords and a counterproductive diplomatic maneuver.

"The only way to resolve the differences between Israel and the PA is through direct talks, as prescribed in the Oslo Accords," he said.

Referring to Arafat's recent series of talks with leaders in the Persian Gulf, Egypt, and elsewhere in the Arab world, Bar-Ilan said:

"The Oslo Accords specifically prohibit such steps, which only can lead to impasse and paralysis."

He also accused Arafat of "incitement" because of his efforts to urge Arab states to "cut back their normalization with Israel," saying this too is an infringement of Oslo.

Arafat said yesterday that intensive efforts are under way to hold an Arab summit as soon as possible, preferably before the international conference which is being called for by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and French President Jacques Chirac.

Arafat stressed the importance of attending the international conference with "a united Arab voice" that will address with determination the sensitive questions, in particular the Palestinian cause.

"We should not forget that the present challenges are enormous and will determine the future of our generations," he said.

In Beirut, meanwhile, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa said that he hopes for agreement on an Arab summit because only international pressure will force Israel to reverse policies that have paralyzed the peace talks.

Moussa spoke as representatives of 10 Arab countries assembling in Lebanon reported broad consensus on the need for an Arab summit but cautioned that it had to be well-prepared before issuing invitations.

"I cannot give definite news at this very moment, but I hope there will be an opportunity to hold the summit successfully to put an end to the Middle East problem which is a result of the negative Israeli policy," Moussa said after meeting Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri.

"Let us be realistic," he said, "the current Israeli policy is not going to be changed soon unless it is firmly confronted by the international and Arab communities through rejecting this policy, not accepting it, and not allowing an Israeli peace on its basis."

"The only accepted cooperation with Israel is via the Madrid formula," he said, referring to the principle of Israel exchanging land for peace.

HARASSMENT

Continued from Page 1

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Delegation leaves for Palermo today

By JAY BUSHINSKY

A five-member Israeli delegation is due to leave today for a conference of European Union, North African and Middle Eastern states in Palermo, Sicily.

The delegation is being headed by Foreign Ministry Director-General Eytan Bentsur. Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein turned down an offer from Uri Elitzur, the chief of the prime minister's bureau, to head the team.

The conference "is supposed to be a follow-up of the 1994 conference in Barcelona in which the participating countries discuss ways to improve cooperation between them in such fields as culture, economics and security," said Bentsur.

He said the Palermo event, which will be chaired by British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook, is not "is not defined as a formal diplomatic event." Therefore, its agenda is not expected to include formal deliberations about the peace process, Bentsur said.

However, Syria and Lebanon, which are among the invitees, are likely to "spare no effort" to bring this issue before the participants, he said.

Libya will be the only North African state excluded from the conclave. Its request for observer status was rejected, presumably due to Benghazi's refusal to hand over two suspects implicated in the 1988 Lockerbie air crash of a Pan American Airlines jet. Libya has been asked to extradite the suspects to the UK or the US for inter-

rogation and possible trial.

Liat Collins adds:

The meeting of speakers of Mediterranean parliaments in Palermo, which ended last night, did not make any declaration on the peace process.

When Egypt and Morocco complained that the draft statement issued at the end of the two-day meeting did not include any mention of the peace process, it was decided a committee comprising Egypt, Tunisia, Italy and Spain would discuss the matter before the next meeting, scheduled for March 1999 in Palma de Majorca.

Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon reportedly ensured no warning statements were made.

The festive concert at the opening of the meeting was less harmonious than expected. The Syrian and Algerian delegations both walked out to protest the fact that almost two thirds of the songs were in either Hebrew, Ladino or Yiddish.

Tichon, who said Israel was also surprised by this, noted that many of the songs were about Jerusalem.

Agence France-Presse reported from Sicily that the outraged Arabs contended that the program did not include a commensurate number of songs in Arabic.

The Palestinians demanded yesterday that the nameplate on their table be changed from "Palestinian Authority" to "Palestine," and later to "PLO."

The Israeli delegation threatened to walk out if the change went ahead, Tichon said, and the matter was dropped.

US reviews deportation of PFLP supporters

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - The US Supreme Court, seeking to clarify a jumble of immigration and anti-terrorism laws, agreed yesterday to review a deportation case against members of the "Popular Front" for the Liberation of Palestine.

The US government has been trying since 1987 to deport eight Los Angeles-area aliens, including seven Palestinians and the Kenyan-born wife of one of them. They are accused of supporting a foreign terrorist organization.

The Palestinians argued that they were singled out for selective enforcement of immigration laws.

In 1994, a federal judge temporarily barred the Immigration and Naturalization Service from conducting deportation proceedings against them.

In 1996, while the Palestinians' case was pending, Congress made it a crime for anyone to provide financial support to a foreign orga-

nization that the US had labeled terrorist.

A separate congressional measure, on immigration, said deportation cases could be heard in court only after the INS has issued a final deportation order.

The US Justice Department contended that the courts did not have jurisdiction to hear the Palestinians' case and that lower court rulings harmed the government's ability to enforce the law barring financial support to foreign terrorists.

The 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals last year ruled that the court could hear the Palestinians' case because they had raised a free-speech issue that might not get adequate judicial review after a final deportation order had been issued.

The appellate court also said that raising money for an organization that engages in both terrorist and legal activities does not justify deportation unless the fund-raisers intended to support terrorism.

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARONI

Islamic bomb

The nuclear tests conducted by Pakistan as a response to India's nuclear experiments a few weeks ago made headlines in the holiday newspapers and commentators speculated on the implications.

"The first Islamic atom bomb that Pakistan has brought out of the closet does not directly threaten Israel," states Yehudit Aharonov's Ron Ben-Yishai. But what does concern Israel is the fact that in a very short time, two Asian countries have totally disregarded US and worldwide opposition.

"The main practical danger at the moment is that China, Pakistan and even India could be tempted to sell knowledge and material to countries that have not reached nuclear capabilities, in order to finance their own escalated nuclear armament."

Ha'aretz's Ze'ev Schiff writes that the recent developments will influence Iran, which is in the midst of a nuclearization process.

"It will be less fearful of a severe response, especially after witnessing the current [mild] international reaction," Schiff writes.

Two-year anniversary

Marking two years since Binyamin Netanyahu was elected prime minister, newspapers analyzed his character and performance. Ma'ariv devoted a whole supplement to the issue.

"Netanyahu always seems like a man who swerves between two extremes. Every time he gets near one extreme - to a decision - the other extreme's forces act upon him and he returns back to where he started," says Ma'ariv's Sima Kadmon. She adds that Netan-

yahu's greatest enemy is himself, adding that Netanyahu's personality is his greatest obstacle.

Ha'aretz's Yoel Marcus states that "today, exactly two years since the elections, Bibi's personal situation is much better than the condition of the country."

Marcus says that if the elections were to be held today, Netanyahu would win, despite the bleak situation that the state is in.

"It's a shame that it will take bloodshed in order for our hero, who manages to deceive everyone, to eventually vanish like a bubble," he writes.

Ma'ariv's Ofer Shaleh believes that in retrospect, it was obvious that Netanyahu would be elected.

"We had no choice but to elect ourselves. Look hard and well at his face. This is the face of this nation," adding that "Israel, circa 1998, is a Bibiland."

He explains that Bibiland is a place where the nation will always be a victim, "where the winner is the only one who is respected... where any attempt to set a value other than a rating, is an elitist arrogance of losers."

Yehudit's Silvy Keshet writes Netanyahu has been playing with fire for the past two years, "and we have all been burned by it."

Ma'ariv's Ron Meiberg and Amnon Dankner say he represents "so many words and so little action."

Chemi Shalev, also of Ma'ariv, believes the premier's popularity lies in the fact that many Israelis prefer political isolation without terrorism to international popularity with terrorism. He adds that, even though two years have passed, the only thing known about Netanyahu is the fact that he wants to be re-elected.

'Mabat' editors' suspensions frozen

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Israel Broadcasting Authority director-general Uri Porat yesterday put off the suspension of Mabat editors Natan Guthman and Elisha Spiegelman, as part of an agreement reached at the Jerusalem Labor Court.

Porat had removed both editors from their posts last week, after deciding they had tampered with the broadcast of the Betar Jerusalem soccer championship celebrations, during which cries of "death to Arabs" were shown to be heard in the presence of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

After six hours of intensive negotiations between Porat, his advisers, and the television editors and their representatives, it was agreed Guthman and Spiegelman would return to work, while their suspension would be postponed for a week.

During this time, the sides will hold talks and attempt to settle the affair between them.

Earlier in the day, Yossi Arnon, the attorney for the National Federation of Israeli Journalists, asked the court for an injunction forbidding the IBA to suspend or dismiss the two editors. But Judge Ronit Rosenfeld urged the two sides to reach a compromise and they entered into negotiations.

Porat was accompanied by attorney Haim Misgav, but the State Attorney's Office maintained that Porat is represented by the state, and thus could not



Israel Broadcasting Authority director-general Uri Porat (left) and Yossi Arnon, the attorney for the National Federation of Israeli Journalists, wait outside Jerusalem Labor Court yesterday.

have a private counsel. Misgav was not allowed to take part in the negotiations.

Following the agreement, Arnon temporarily withdrew his request for an injunction and said, "I hope this is the end of the affair. The workers' suspension is canceled. Porat will call them for talks and it's understood, without being written, that this is the end

of the story." He added that if Porat threatens to dismiss or demote the workers again, the case will return to court.

"What started in the IBA will end in the IBA," Porat said yesterday.

Channel 1 workers expressed satisfaction with the agreement.

"Porat needed a ladder to climb down on, after rashly deciding to remove Guthman and Spiegelman from their duties," one worker said.

"The compromise will enable him to say he reached a new understanding with the workers or something to that effect."

But other workers expressed anger at the fact that Betar supporters shouted "death to Arabs" and the only ones being punished were the newscasters who broadcast what was happening.

"In what other democracy would similar cries, against Jews for instance, go without any response from the law, while the journalists who expose the occurrence are investigated, accused, and suspended?" a worker asked.

Another worker said it was obvious to all that Porat had decided to "frame" Guthman and Spiegelman for allegedly tampering with the tape, when it was the sports department which had prepared it for broadcast.

Meretz's representative on the IBA executive committee, Eli Cohen Jabbar, yesterday presented committee chairman Rina Shapira with a proposal commending television's news team.

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Judges' decision expected only next year

Prosecution sums up in Deri trial

The prosecution presented its closing arguments in Shas leader Aryeh Deri's fraud trial to the Jerusalem District Court yesterday. The prosecution claimed, in the 17-volume, 2,500-page summary it presented to the court, that it had proved beyond a shadow of a doubt that Deri is guilty.

Deri is charged with accepting \$170,000 worth of bribes from the other defendants in the case—Moshe Weinberg, Aryeh Weinberg,

and Yom-Tov Rubin. In exchange, Deri allegedly used his political power to their advantage.

Deri allegedly funneled NIS 787,000 from the Religious Affairs Ministry and the Jerusalem Municipality to the Center for Prisoner Rehabilitation, which allegedly was established as a front for the Lev Banim yeshiva, which the Weinbergs and Rubin ran.

The prosecution said that it also

had proved that Deri used his power as director-general of the Interior Ministry to convince the government to provide alternate land to the Moresheet Binyamin housing association after construction was prohibited on the land it had been marketing at Nebi Samwil. Deri, Rubin, and Moshe Weinberg allegedly received \$200,000 from the association in the deal.

The defense has claimed that

this version is "false from beginning to end" and that Deri and his wife Yaffa had received money from her adoptive parents, Isser and Esther Werderber.

Deri also is accused of having Moshe Weinberg appointed to head the Lehavim Local Council. All four of the defendants also are accused with suborning witnesses in the trial.

The defense has the summer to examine the prosecution's state-

ment, which was also distributed on computer disks, and is to present its final arguments by September. A decision is not expected until next year.

The Deri trial began in September 1994. Since then, some 120 witnesses for the prosecution and dozens of defense witnesses testified in more than 400 hearings, generating almost 42,000 pages of protocol.

(Itim)

Greens protest new marina in Haifa

By DAVID RUDGE

Scores of conservationists took part in a motorcade through Haifa yesterday to protest plans for a huge hotel-holiday homes-marina project off the coast near the Bat Galim district.

A further demonstration is planned in Jerusalem today to coincide with a meeting in the capital of the National Building and Planning Commission to make a final decision on the project.

The conservationists are calling for the multi-million dollar project, which has been in the planning for over 12 years, to be scrapped or reconsidered. They maintain that the project, which involves reclaiming land from the sea, would be a monstrous eyesore which would destroy an important and scenic stretch of Haifa's coastline.

The conservationists from the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel and several green movements were joined by Haifa residents opposed to the project.

Over 30 vehicles, including vans carrying models of what the scheme would look like, participated in the motorcade, which set out from Bat Galim and slowly made its way through the city. The cars and vans also were plastered with posters and placards declaring that "The Sea Belongs to the Public" and "Stop the Destruction of our Beaches."

"We are not opposed to a marina itself if it were sited in the appropriate place, for instance, in part of the existing port where it joins with the German colony district," SPNI spokesperson Orit Nevo said.

"We are, however, opposed to this proposed project which is essentially not a marina but a real estate complex for millionaires," said Nevo, who also participated in the protest motorcade yesterday.

The project is slated to involve the construction of a huge complex of high-rise hotels, holiday apartments and recreation areas along a 1.8 kilometer stretch of coastline between Bat Galim and Shikmona. The complex would extend over 600 meters from the beach on land reclaimed from the sea.

The scheme has passed all the preliminary approval stages with the exception of the National Building and Planning Commission, which is slated to make a final decision at its meeting today.

The conservationists, however, maintain that a marina project was never included in the original development plan for the region and that the scheme itself has been changed since the initial planning stage.

If the project is approved by the national commission, the conservationists said they intend to take the matter to the Supreme Court.

Conservatives thank police for protecting them at Western Wall

By HAIM SHAPIRO

The leader of Israel's Conservative movement yesterday sent his thanks to the Jerusalem police for making possible a prayer service by Conservative worshippers at the Western Wall on Shavuot.

About 200 members of the movement held a service, in which men and women prayed together, surrounded by a human wall of police.

They protected the worshippers from hundreds of haredi youths who shouted and threw objects at them.

An attempt to hold a similar service last year failed after the police evacuated the worshippers, telling them they could no longer protect them. On Tisha B'Av, the police refused to allow a mixed service to take place.

In a letter to Jerusalem Police Commander Yair Yitzhaki, Rabbi Ehud Bandel, the president of the Conservative movement thanked the police in the name of the worshippers.

"Please pass on my thanks to all the police of the capital who worked hard to preserve order and protect freedom of religion at the holiest site of the Jewish people," Bandel said in his letter.

The police, Bandel said, had refused to submit to explicit threats of violence which had been voiced even by senior elements in the religious establishment. Last week Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau and Sephardi Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron had sent a letter to Oded Winer, director-general of the Center for Holy Places, saying that mixed prayers were a violation of the tradition of the site. Such prayers could provoke verbal and physical violence, they added.

Bandel said yesterday that in the light of the events of last Shavuot and Tisha B'Av, the fact that the police had allowed the prayers and protected the worshippers marked a precedent. However, he added that mixed prayers had been held in the Western Wall Plaza since 1967, when the site was liberated. Before 1948 there had been no *mechitza* (physical barrier between men and women) at the Wall, he added.



Franciscan Custos enters Jerusalem

The new Franciscan Custos, Father Giovanni Batistelli (right), symbolically enters Jerusalem at the Jaffa Gate yesterday, following his recent election to the post. The custos is the head of the Franciscan order in the Holy Land, which the pope has entrusted with being the guardians of the Holy Places. The position is considered equal to that of the Greek Orthodox, Armenian and Latin patriarchs.

(Text: Haim Shapiro; Photo: Kevin Unger)

Einstein's love letters detail affair with possible Russian spy

NEW YORK (AP) — A Russian spy, a master scientist, and romance amid World War II — it sounds more James Bond than Albert Einstein.

But experts say nine love letters that have just surfaced detail an affair between Einstein and a possible Russian spy, whose mission was to introduce the famed physicist to the Soviet vice consul in New York. The letters were from 1945 and 1946.

The letters, purportedly written by Einstein to Margarita Konenkova, were consigned by a

relative of Konenkova to Sotheby's. The *New York Times* reported yesterday. They will be auctioned on June 26 in New York.

The letters, which are written in German, are being sold by a relative of Konenkova who wishes to remain anonymous, the *Times* said. A photo of Einstein and Konenkova, autographed in German by Einstein, also will be sold.

No letters from Konenkova to Einstein have been found, said Sotheby's consultant Paul

Needham.

The two met in 1935, but it's unclear when the supposed affair began, and whether it was before or after Einstein's second wife died in 1936, Needham said. Konenkova was married to the noted sculptor Sergei Konenkov. She was 51 at the time and Einstein was 66.

There is no indication in the letters of whether Einstein knew that the woman may have been a spy.

The letters do, however, reveal a poetic side to Einstein, who fathered the theory of relativity.

"Just recently I washed my head by myself, but not with the greatest success; I am not as careful as you are," he wrote from his home in Princeton, New Jersey on November 27, 1945. "But everything here reminds me of you."

Needham told the *Times* that it was highly unlikely that Einstein was involved, inadvertently or otherwise, with Russia's efforts to build an atomic bomb, because he was only peripherally involved in US efforts to do so at the time.

US State Department:

'Times' wrong on Nazi loot report

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — The State Department, one day before the release of its second review of Nazi loot, distanced itself yesterday from a *New York Times* story that said the US found that much of the wealth looted from Europe was routed through Switzerland to pay other neutrals for supplies that sustained Hitler's army.

The *Times* story "is misleading and, in part, significantly inaccurate and erroneous," State Department spokesman James Rubin said, in a draft statement that was expected to be released yesterday.

However, Rubin's statement did not specify what the errors were in the *Times* story on the US report. The report is entitled "US and Allied Wartime and Postwar Negotiations with Argentina, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Turkey on Looted Gold and German External Assets."

In yesterday's editions, the *Times* reported that the core of the new report deals with how the "neutrals and non-belligerents" aided and profited from both Hitler and the Allies.

The paper cited, as an example, that Turkey's gold reserves went from 27 tons before the war to 216 tons by its end.

Portugal and Spain, the *Times* said, provided Germany with "almost 100 percent" of the essential minerals needed to produce "machine tools and armaments, especially armor-piercing shells."

According to the *Times*, the report also doubles the American estimate of how much gold was in the so-called Melmer account, a

Nazi account used for deposits of rings, teeth fillings and other personal possessions of Holocaust victims. Historians now believe that more than \$40 million, in today's dollars, was in that account.

Undersecretary of State Stuart Eizenstat is scheduled to release the second American report on Nazi plunder today in Washington.

The first Eizenstat report, which was issued last May, focused extensively on Switzerland. It charged Bern with violating its war-time neutrality and with prolonging the war by trading with the Nazis.

The US review of "German external assets" — which refers to post-war German assets that were held in states other than Germany — was expected to raise questions about the Allies' jurisdiction after the war.

Although the Allies sought to recover German assets, which were to be used for reconstruction and reparations, there was no agreement among the Allies that international law gave them the right to compel the neutrals to turn over German assets.

To skirt the legal disputes, the Allies invoked the so-called "Rubin theory," a moral — not legal — argument named after then State Department negotiator Seymour Rubin.

According to his theory, the neutral countries were invited to "cooperate" in the recovery of German assets on grounds that they had benefited from the sacrifices made by the Allies and had emerged from the war unscathed. In other words, the Allies told the neutrals: "We saved you; pay up."

Generali gives Yad Vashem 300,000 policyholders names

Jerusalem Post Staff

The Italian insurer Assicurazioni Generali has given Yad Vashem a CD-ROM with 300,000 names of policyholders who took out their policies before the Holocaust and never redeemed them.

After careful sorting of the names by Yad Vashem experts, the names of Jews in these records will be added to the Holocaust memorial's Hall of Names.

The disk was given last week to Alex Avraham, director of Yad Vashem's Hall of Names, and Michael Lieber, its chief information officer, when the two visited the company's headquarters in Trieste.

Last year, Yad Vashem learned that the documents, listing names

of Jews who almost certainly perished in the Holocaust, were being kept in Generali's warehouse. Avner Shalev, chairman of the Yad Vashem directorate, asked for the company's consent to include the names in its archives.

"One of Yad Vashem's most important tasks is to collect names of Holocaust victims, and we thus collect names from every relevant source," said Shalev.

The data handed over by Generali must be sorted, as it contains the names of both Jews and non-Jews, and the sorting is likely to take a long time.

Shalev stressed that the transfer of the names is not linked to the ongoing claims relating to unpaid policies being made against Generali by Holocaust survivors and their heirs.

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Viagra can be prescribed here again

By JUDY SIEGEL

The anti-impotence drug Viagra may again be prescribed and brought in by personal import, the Health Ministry decided yesterday.

The ministry accepted the conclusions of the US Food and Drug Administration, which investigated the deaths of six men who took the diamond-

shaped blue pills manufactured by Pfizer.

The FDA said that from the available information, it appeared that these cases were attributed to either cardiovascular events associated with sexual activity in older men or a combination of Viagra and nitrates, which is contraindicated in the FDA-approved label.

Pfizer, which is garnering a for-

tune from the pills, is making no changes to the Viagra product label; the package states the need for a medical examination and discussion with a physician before the initiation of any therapy for impotence.

Patients taking nitrates in any form, including nitroglycerin and long-acting nitrates used for chest pain, should not take Viagra, as the combination can

cause a sudden, severe drop in blood pressure.

The ministry said that its district pharmacists will again review all applications for personal import of Viagra and only if all seems proper may the patient buy the drug at a pharmacy.

As no importer has yet applied to the ministry for licensing, Viagra remains unlicensed,

meaning that doctors who prescribe the drug are legally responsible for any complications that occur in their patients.

Although each Viagra pill sells here for NIS 52.50, customs officials are on the lookout for smuggled-in supplies of both authentic and bogus pills.

According to experts, 80% of the Viagra sold worldwide on the black market is counterfeit.

Beit Jann municipal workers step up protests

Employees angry at non-payment of salaries

By DAVID RUDGE

Angry employees of the Beit Jann Local Council, who have not been paid for over three months, staged a demonstration outside the Interior Ministry in Jerusalem yesterday.

They demanded that the ministry transfer funds to the council's empty coffers to enable them to receive their pay.

Council chairman Yusef Kaban accused the ministry of deliberately withholding the money, partly because he had refused to give Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu an honorary citizen award.

The allegation was categorically denied by the Interior Ministry, which maintained that the local council had received all the funds due it, but had used some of the money for development projects.

"This is being done for two reasons - because of our adamant stance over the dispute with the Nature Reserves Authority [over Mt. Meron] and because I opposed giving an honorary citizen award to the prime minister," Kaban told reporters.

I don't think that he deserves it, not a prime minister who has frozen the peace process and caused high unemployment and the closure of dozens of factories, particularly textile firms which have been transferred to Jordan and Egypt, and cuts in our budget.



Employees of the Beit Jann local council sit near their protest tent outside the Interior Ministry yesterday.

(Brian McBurney)

"Tens of millions of shekels were wasted on the jubilee celebrations while council workers have not received their salaries."

Ati Sa'ad, chairman of the workers' committee, said the employees, who have been manning a protest tent opposite the

Interior Ministry since last week, would intensify their protest unless they received their salaries.

He maintained that the workers had agreed to cuts in salary and other benefits as part of a recovery program, but the ministry had

failed to honor its part of the agreement.

Interior Ministry spokeswoman Tova Elinson said that the council had received NIS 13 million last month, but had used the money for development projects instead of paying the workers.

She stressed that the council had also received an advance on the basis of the recovery program.

Further talks between representatives of the ministry and the local council are to take place today, she added.

Kahalani: I'll probe ways to protect medical staff in emergency rooms

By JUDY SIEGEL

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani told the cabinet yesterday he would investigate ways to protect medical staff in hospital emergency rooms, but he did not offer suggestions or details.

The discussion - including Health Minister Yehoshua Matza's expression of concern about growing violence - took up less than five minutes of the cabinet meeting.

Matza spoke out against the sanctions by doctors that were applied after the four most recent

attacks on physicians and nurses in emergency rooms during the past few weeks.

Matza said efforts to ensure safety should not be made at the expense of patients.

At 7 a.m. today, Assaf Harofeh Hospital doctors will end their day-long sanctions, during which the hospital functioned on a reduced Shabbat schedule.

The doctors were protesting the beating of a doctor and nurse by the brother of a patient on Sunday.

Dr. Elisha Bar-Tov, chairman of the Association of Government Hospital Doctors, said the sanctions were applied because "we

haven't found any other way to express our protest against the wave of violence against doctors and repeated incidents of harm to medical staffers."

The professional group is "considering, with the Israel Medical Association, the taking of far-reaching steps to ensure that health workers are protected while fulfilling their duties," he said. He did not elaborate.

Reuven Keren, the Health Ministry's chief security officer, said that if doctors wanted to participate in self-defense courses, he saw no problem organizing them.

Installing distress beepers in

emergency rooms may be a possibility, he said, but technical problems could make them impractical. Keren said he would like to see a policeman in every emergency room.

"But even more important, the police should abandon their forgiving attitude to violent acts against doctors. In most cases, the police suggest that complainants be withdrawn because the attackers were relatives of patients who died or narcotics addicts. But only if the law setting a three-year prison sentence for attacking a public servant is enforced will such incidents be prevented."

Yahalom orders inquiry into motorcyclist's death

Transport Minister Shaul Yahalom has ordered his director-general, Nahum Langenthal, to establish a committee to investigate the reasons for the death of motorcyclist Pinhas Shechter, 21, who was killed Sunday night on a section of Jerusalem's Route 4 still under construction.

Shechter and a passenger, Hanoch Sanhedrin, 22, who was lightly to moderately injured,

were travelling from the direction of Ramot toward Givat Mordechai.

They attempted to use one of the tunnels, which will go under the entrance to the city and are still under construction.

There are signs on that section of the road forbidding anyone from using it.

Their motorcycle struck a chain, strung between two trucks

by the company building the tunnels in an effort to prevent unauthorized use.

The committee will investigate whether the construction company did everything required to prevent the entry of vehicles onto the unfinished section of the road.

In two other motorcycle accidents in Jerusalem, a 17-year-old motorcyclist was seriously

injured early yesterday morning, when he swerved into the oncoming lane and hit a car.

A motorcycle driving behind him also was involved in the accident, and its rider was lightly injured.

Yesterday morning, a van, whose driver ignored a "Slow" sign, hit a motor scooter on Rehov Aza.

(Ilim)

NEWS

in brief

Naveh: Violent antisemitism up

Cabinet secretary Dan Naveh, who heads a committee to monitor antisemitism, said yesterday that during the last month there has been a worrisome increase in violence against Jews throughout the world. Some of the incidents were connected to celebrations of Israel's jubilee, he said.

The incidents include two attacks on Jewish targets in Greece and Latvia, the explosion at the Habad synagogue in Moscow, and a series of street attacks against Jews, especially in Britain.

Naveh has requested that Israeli representatives abroad request that the various governments act decisively to thwart further attacks.

(Ilim)

Ecopeace conference aims to protect Dead Sea

Nobody really wants the Dead Sea to die. That was the message which came out of a conference in Amman last week attended by Israeli, Jordanian, Palestinian and other delegates. The 130 participants included government officials and representatives of universities, private sector tourism, industry and environmental groups. The conference was organized by Ecopeace, an NGO dealing with environmental issues throughout the region.

Speakers at the conference talked of the threat to the sea because of uncoordinated development, water diversion projects and the potash industry.

Liat Collins

Health Ministry bans okra, corn from PA

Okra and corn from the Palestinian Authority-controlled territories may not pass into Israel until further notice because of high microbial levels found in lab tests by the Health Ministry. The ministry said that these vegetables' entry will be permitted only after additional tests find them to be safe.

Judy Siegel

Man threatens to kill judge

A Jerusalem resident who is in the midst of divorce proceedings, was arrested over the weekend on suspicion of threatening to kill Judge Hiliya Marcus, who had issued an order barring him from seeing his son.

Police say the man, 50, called his wife and son and told them he intended to fire 10 bullets into Marcus's chest and that "the judge is sentenced to death."

(Ilim)

Heart patients march for health

Hundreds of heart patients and their families yesterday took part in a "health march" organized by the Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Campus in Petah Tikva.

The patients and their relatives walked for 1.5 kilometers in the Neve Oz neighborhood and were greeted by Mayor Giora Lev.

Judy Siegel

MKs to discuss school violence

The Knesset Education Committee is to discuss today the spread of violence in schools nationwide. Police were summoned to deal with 708 cases of students attacking other students at school during the past 16 months.

In other instances, educators preferred to handle the violence without calling the police.

Shmuel Abuav, an official of the Center for Local Authorities, who released the figures, is asking that the police force be beefed up by the drafting of soldiers to deal with the violence.

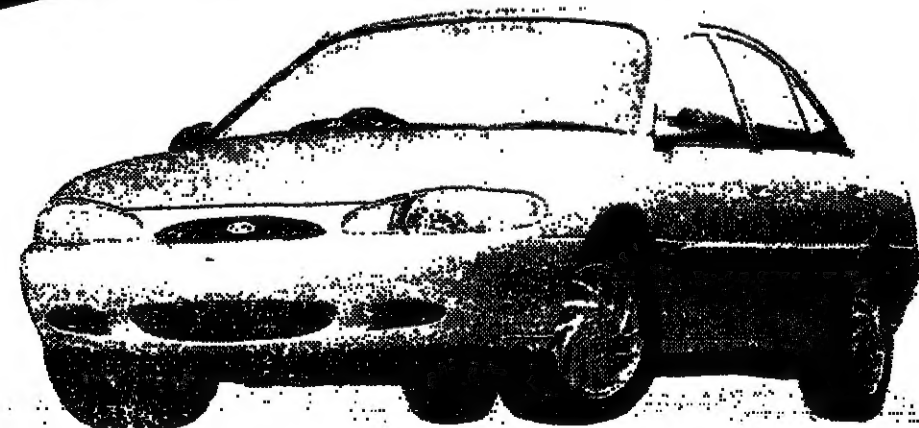
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Bigger than yours

Where are Mahatma Gandhi and Mother Teresa when you need them? What would the father of non-violence and the mother of the poor make of the nuclear rumblings beneath their feet, and the answering echo from the Pakistani plains beyond Kashmir?

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

There is something deeply offensive and immoral about poverty-soaked Third World states grandly popping off nukes, like maharajahs idly flicking cocktail olives at beggars. It's bad enough that the wealthy West continues to squander billions of dollars on these wretched weapons which will bring instant war criminal status on the first country to use them against a neighbor's city. But India? Pakistan?

On yes, they are weapons of peace, meant only to deter aggression, to enhance national security. As much preparation went into the politicians' clichés as into the underground test sites.

The first nationalistic celebrations that greeted India's series of tests will give way to morning-after sickness. Is India any more secure than it was before the tests? It is considerably less secure.

Indian roulette

Before Pakistan responded with its own blast of nuclear madness, its Foreign Minister Gohar Ayub Khan said India had planned a preemptive strike against the Pakistani test site which had only been narrowly averted.

This is more sub-continental security? No doubt India has such a military contingency plan, but for Ayub Khan to declare that the countries were on the brink of war in the middle of nuclear testing was a frightening example of the dangerous irresponsibility of the politicians in these countries.

If India had attacked the test site, are we to assume that Pakistan would have tested its first weapon over New Delhi? India and Pakistan have for years followed the Israeli model of strategic ambiguity about their nuclear arsenals—a "don't ask and we won't admit it" policy, which theoretically will give potential enemies pause for thought, because they don't know if the Russian roulette of war politics has the big one in the chamber. India had exploded a test weapon long ago, so its capability really was no secret in the way Israel's is, but it had managed to put the bomb back behind the cobwebs in the closet of strategic ambiguity. Pakistan has been even more vague.

Who cares?

The full blame for the startling return of the nuclear threat to world peace 10 years after the Cold War ended lies squarely on India's shoulders. While the international community has been taken by surprise, no one should have been surprised. When a country abandons the paths of peace, moderation and dialogue and takes a rightward swing to

religion-fueled national chauvinism, let nobody be surprised where it leads.

The Hindu nationalist Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee just couldn't resist waving his big bang in Pakistan's face, just couldn't resist feeding the fundamentalist sharks on the right of his coalition. Such leaders appear not to care about international condemnation, about the chunk taken out of the national budget, about UN sanctions, about the death of India's bid to get a seat on the Security Council, about the alarm bells ringing in Pakistan and China. Does anyone in the government care? Apparently not. The religious Right keep their expectations low, but consistently live up to them.

Those who explain away nuclear proliferation as an irrelevant peacenik obsession, or an attempt by those with nuclear weapons to keep the club exclusive, often argue that the only time they were used was when just two of them existed—and both of them were dropped on Japan.

On the other hand, when the superpowers had several thousand on each side at the height of the Cold War, none were used, and the only accidents that happened have been at civilian reactors.

Warped atoms

So why does this argument that the more nuclear powers there are, the more they deter one another, make us all feel very uneasy—except those in certain types of certain governments?

So Vajpayee basks briefly in the transitory shower of accolades from his nuke-crazed minions. A couple of kilometers away, in New Delhi's southern suburbs, there are tens of thousands of Indians who would be glad for any shower. In the vast slum there is a city of doll houses cast in brown and black mud, crisscrossed by open drains. Doors on each street look into neighbors' doors a meter away. Narrow open drains run in front of each terrace of homes.

Each rooftop is shoulder high, each hovel as big as a Tel Aviv bathroom. They are packed with young and old, around them crammed their few possessions. Water comes from a standpipe in a Lilliputian square.

Surely they must give thanks for the nuclear umbrella that now stretches unseen at great cost above their simple heads? On the other hand, although it might not look it, this is the capital of a nuclear power and, as such, a nuclear target for trigger-happy nuclear Pakistan.

As British writer Martin Amis once put it, these simple folk one day may have to "retreat the long mile home, through the firestorm, the remains of the 1,000 mile/hour winds, the warped atoms, the groveling dead."

Yes, this is the capital of both a nuclear power and a poverty power. Gee, Mr. Vajpayee, we really are impressed by how big your bomb is.

By KENNETH J. COOPER and JOHN WARD ANDERSON

As they engage in a second Cold War, India and Pakistan have been guided by an optimistic reading of the bygone Cold War's history that assumes mutual possession of nuclear weaponry automatically prevents nuclear war, just as it ultimately did during four decades of confrontation between the United States and former Soviet Union.

While placing faith in the effectiveness of nuclear deterrence, leaders of the two hostile neighbors on the Indian subcontinent also expect to avoid other, damaging side effects of the US-Soviet conflict, such as the spiraling costs and escalating tensions resulting from an arms race to establish a strategic edge.

India and Pakistan, for the most part bystanders to the Cold War, also have underestimated the impact that nationalistic passions and fears of being obliterated, once unleashed, can have in a nuclearized rivalry. Rather than risks, the nations mostly see national security in nuclear arms.

These shared perspectives are based partly on an understanding that two of the world's poorest nations cannot easily afford to spend billions of dollars on nuclear weapons and expensive military systems to deliver them.

In the case of India, the attitude is also based on a one-sided view of the developing nation as "dedicated to peace," in the words of Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, even though modern India has the world's fourth-largest military and has often bullied its smaller neighbors.

"They say they won't go through the same (kind of) Cold War, but they are human and they've made strategic mistakes in the past," said Stephen P. Cohen, a South Asia specialist who teaches at the University of Illinois. "They are no worse than us, but no better, and the stakes are very high." Scott Sagan, a political scientist at Stanford University, said: "They are taking only the positive aspects of the past experience and saying they'll copy that, and they're assuming they'll avoid the negative aspects. There's no reason only the good news of the past will repeat itself."

In particular, Sagan warned that avoiding nuclear war cannot be taken for granted: "It's like walking on thin ice. The fact that the United States and Soviets did it once during the Cold War should not give anyone confidence that it can be done again."

India and Pakistan have managed to leave themselves a couple of plausible ways out of a second Cold War. Vajpayee's government has dropped hints that India might be willing to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, or make a similar international agreement, if the rest of the world recognizes the nation as a declared nuclear power.

Pakistan would sign the test-ban treaty almost immediately if



Rallying around the bombs: Pakistani Prime Minister Sharif ordered his country's nuclear tests despite knowing that the full force of economic sanctions could drive Pakistan into bankruptcy. (AP)

India did likewise, according to Foreign Minister Gohar Ayub Khan. India and Pakistan said they were willing to resume bilateral negotiations that stalled last year over the divided Himalayan territory of Kashmir, which both nations claim as their own. The talks could resume in mid-July, when Vajpayee and Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif are scheduled to attend a meeting of South Asian leaders in Sri Lanka.

In addition, leaders of Western industrialized nations plan to meet soon to develop an initiative to avert a nuclear-arms race in South Asia.

BUT THE international and regional efforts come too late to stop the escalation. India and Pakistan have engaged in an arms race since 1974, when India

conducted its first nuclear test.

The intensified competition that this month led both nations to openly cross the nuclear threshold began in 1995, when the Indian government, led by the Congress party, prepared for an underground nuclear test with an election approaching but scuttled its plans in the face of US pressure.

In their recent vows not to repeat the worst of the Cold War, the governments of India and Pakistan have ignored their previous competition to develop nuclear arms and missile systems to deliver them.

"India shall not engage in an arms race. India shall also not subscribe (to) or reinvent the doctrines of the Cold War," Vajpayee's government declared last week in a statement to Parliament.

"The answer for us lies in

nuclear deterrence," Shamshad Ahmad, Pakistan's top career diplomat, said after the nation's second round of nuclear tests. "It is not our purpose to enter into an arms race. The history of the Cold War showed that such disastrous races are counterproductive and definitely not sustainable."

Ghafoor Ahmad, deputy leader of a fundamentalist Islamic party in Pakistan, said in an interview, "I don't think there is any danger of nuclear war because nuclear weapons are a deterrent to war."

Ghafoor Ahmad is among opinion-makers in both countries who view nuclear weapons as peacekeepers, even on a tense subcontinent where communal passions have been known periodically to race out of control. "It keeps peace," Bharat Karnad, an Indian analyst, said recently on a televi-

sion talk show.

After India conducted underground nuclear tests in May, government officials said they expected Pakistan to do likewise. But as more than two weeks passed, members of Vajpayee's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party began crowing that maybe the Islamic Republic of Pakistan could not muster the necessary technology or would be bought off by a generous aid package from the Clinton administration.

With Pakistan's first detonation of nuclear devices Thursday, followed by another, the mood changed in New Delhi, the capital of the world's second-most-populous country.

Jubilant disappeared among members of India's educated elite who had cheered its nuclear tests May 11 and May 13 as a bold expression of national pride. One Western diplomat reported that fear had replaced glee in the eyes of Indian coworkers.

Opposition members of Parliament, previously hesitant to criticize a politically popular move, are now accusing Vajpayee's government of precipitating an ominous arms race that it had promised to avoid.

Before Thursday, Indian officials had at times appeared to underestimate the risks of unintentional nuclear conflict, a scenario that had prompted the US and the former Soviet Union to install elaborate systems of command and control over their nuclear arsenals.

Jaswant Singh, a member of a task force drafting plans for a national-security council that is to develop India's nuclear doctrine, had dismissed a foreign reporter's questions about a specialized command and control structure as "a matter of detail."

"We are not replicating the experience of the West," Singh explained during a news conference at the Foreign Correspondents' Club in New Delhi. "Therefore, what the West constructed in the management of their arsenals is not what India requires. The word 'arsenal' is inapplicable."

Despite such denials, nationalistic passions already have contributed to shaping the nuclear-arms race between India and Pakistan.

Prime Minister Sharif ordered Pakistan's tests despite knowing that the full force of economic sanctions could drive his country into bankruptcy. A group of Pakistani newspaper editors he consulted beforehand acknowledged the economic collapse of the former Soviet Union as a relevant lesson of the Cold War but nonetheless voted overwhelmingly for the government to proceed with tests.

Reacting to Pakistan's response to India's tests, Bal Thackeray, who leads a Hindu nationalist partner in the 14-party coalition government, urged India to produce a devastatingly powerful type of nuclear weapon—hydrogen bombs.

(The Washington Post)

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Relief groups in aid effort as Afghan quake toll rises

By MUHAMMAD PASHA

FAIZABAD, Afghanistan (Reuters) — Scrambling against time, hostile terrain, and aftershocks, relief agencies yesterday launched a major emergency operation in Afghanistan for survivors of an earthquake that killed thousands.

Aid agencies said there is an urgent need for medicine, blankets, shelter, and food for thousands made homeless by Saturday's quake, the second to hit the area this year.

"The key this time, as it was last time, is getting shelter for these people," said UN spokeswoman Sarah Russell in Islamabad, capital of neighboring Pakistan.

The UN said reports from the

worst hit area of Shar-i-Buzurg "indicate that the area is being hit by aftershocks, forcing people to stay outside because they are scared their houses will collapse. Shelter is the key priority, but UN staff on the ground also report the local authorities are pleading for food. They say many people's foodstocks have been buried beneath rubble."

Aid agencies fear that the earthquake, which measured 7.1 on the Richter scale, may have caused more devastation than the February disaster. The death toll from that quake is put at between 1,200 and 4,000.

Aid workers said up to 3,000 people were killed by the latest quake. An anti-Taliban alliance in the region and the Taliban, who

control most of Afghanistan, said 5,000 died.

The area of north Afghanistan jolted by the tremor is home to at least 60,000 people, mostly peasant farmers living precariously on terraced hillsides or in remote valleys.

Aid workers said that the relief operation should run more smoothly than in February, when poor weather prevented flights and made dirt tracks impassable.

"A major plus is that this time around Faizabad airstrip is open," said one senior relief worker. "It is a good strip and from there we can reach many places either by chopper or by road or donkey."

Faizabad airstrip became the hub of the operation with relief workers and scores of media waiting for transport by helicopter or

road to the afflicted region.

The UN said the three worst-affected areas were Shar-i-Buzurg, Rustaq, and Chah-ab. Rustaq bore the brunt of February's quake, measuring 6.1 on the Richter scale, in which 14 villages were demolished.

Estimates of how many villages have been flattened this time vary, but aid agencies said a figure of more than 50 in Takhar and adjoining Badakhshan provinces seems credible.

UN officials said they hope to rent helicopters from neighboring Tajikistan to carry out the key task of getting emergency supplies to hilltop homes and distant hamlets.

"Helicopters are the work horse. They can carry up to three tons of aid each, but even they cannot

land at some of these villages because they are perched on the edge of hills," said Russell.

Aid agencies said people were more prepared after the February quake, but relief staff in the area are still trying to carry out a detailed damage assessment.

The death toll could easily rise as bodies are recovered from the rubble, but collation of accurate figures in one of the poorest and most remote areas of Afghanistan is not easy, aid workers said.

The UN's chief coordinator for Afghanistan, Alfredo Witschi-Cestari, said on return from the worst-hit area of Shar-i-Buzurg on Saturday night that the figures are complex.

"It is difficult at this early stage to assess exactly how many have

lost their lives. But it is clear thousands are homeless," he said in a statement.

Relief workers set up improvised clinics for survivors who are trekking from their former homes and sleeping outside for fear of aftershocks.

"We have set up clinics in Chah Ab and Rustaq for the wounded. It is important to bring medicines, medical teams, and other resources quickly," Jacques Trembley, of Medecins Sans Frontieres, told Reuters from the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif.

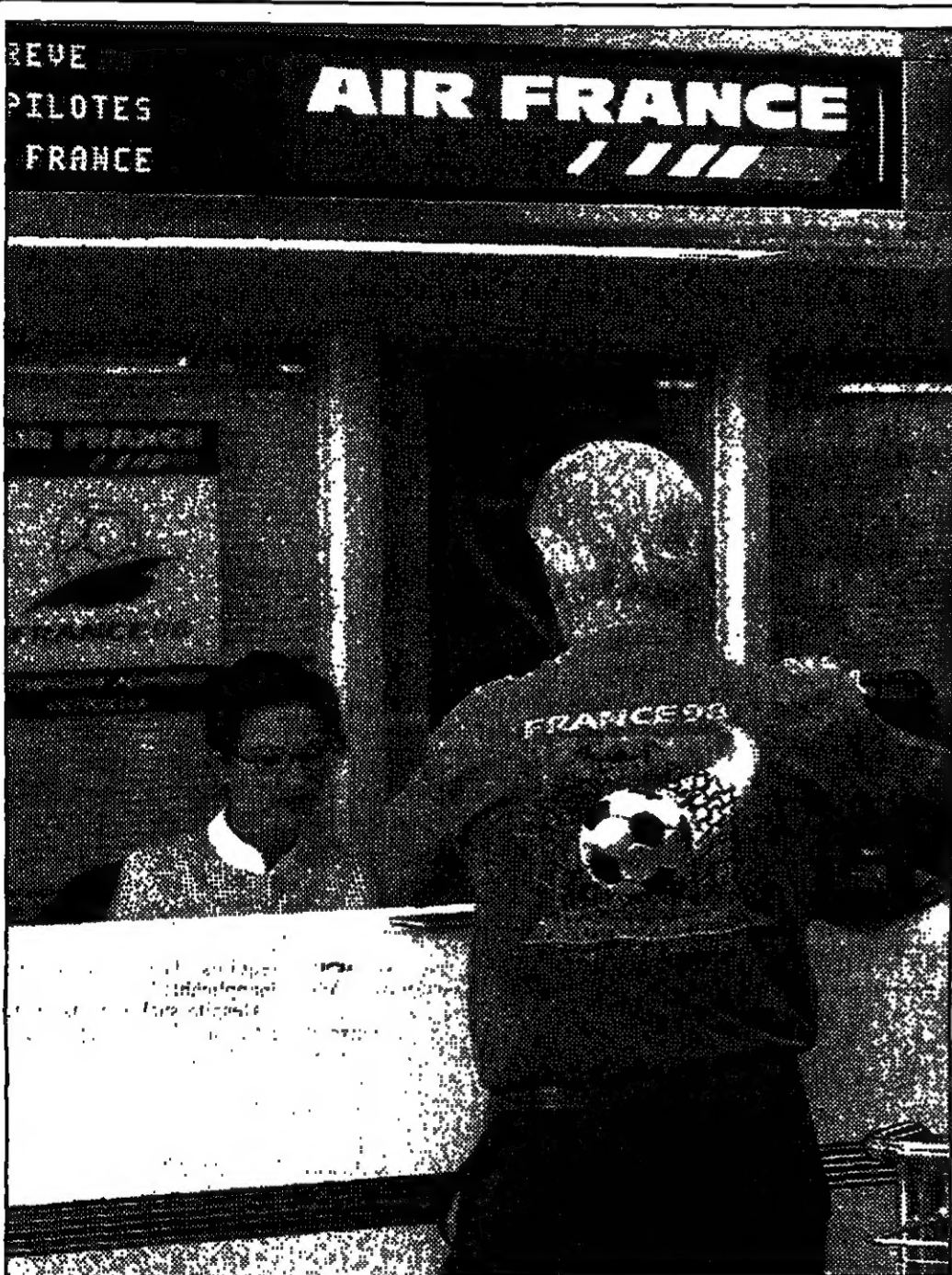
"We received drugs and other logistical supplies. There are people coming from remote villages for treatment. The serious ones needing surgery are referred to hospitals," he said.

A Pakistani Air Force transport plane was flying to Mazar-i-Sharif yesterday with a major consignment of relief supplies, the Foreign Ministry said.

There are only two hospitals in the area — one in Faizabad, the main town of Badakhshan, and one in Taloqan, the provincial capital of Takhar. Both are far from the quake-hit region.

"The rain has stopped since yesterday afternoon. The weather is fine for planes, but for cars it is difficult and the only way is by donkeys to reach the remote villages," Trembley said.

Some of the wounded are serious ones and we need choppers to transfer them to hospitals for immediate treatment. That is the biggest problem, but shelter is



A man wearing a World Cup T-shirt asks about flights at an Air France desk at Orly Airport, south of Paris, yesterday. The screen over the counter reads 'Air France pilots on strike.' (AP)

Pilots ground Air France

By BERNARD EDINGER

PARIS (Reuters) — Traffic was brought almost to a standstill at Air France yesterday as pilots began a strike likely to affect the World Cup soccer tournament.

Airport sources reported about 85 percent of the airline's flights were cancelled. The airline had been expecting to carry 100,000 passengers during the day on its international and domestic flights.

Foreign airlines flying in and out of France were not affected. There was little confusion at airports since most passengers had heard of the strike and changed their travel plans.

"We're unfortunately used to this kind of mess in France," one disgruntled passenger told France-2 television at Orly Airport.

The strike was initially set for June 1-4 but unions have warned they would review their position every four days and the strike could continue up to two weeks.

Air France's long-haul international flights were more seriously affected than medium-range

or domestic flights.

Company officials at Bordeaux Airport in southwest France, for example, said they could confirm five of 15 scheduled flights to Paris but only a single flight would come from the capital.

The airline's two main domestic rivals, Air Outre Mer and Air Liberté, said all their flights were full and they had added several extra flights for Air France passengers.

Railway stations reported main express trains to provincial destinations were full of passengers initially due to fly on Air France's domestic lines.

About 98% of Air France's 3,200 pilots were on strike over company plans to cut their salaries by a total of \$83.5 million a year to fund an ambitious expansion program, including purchase of 70 new aircraft and development of new runways at Paris airports.

The action, estimated to cost the company \$16 million a day, is likely to disrupt transport arrangements for the month-long World Cup, which begins on June 10.

Air France, official carrier for the World Cup, has promised to provide flights for all the teams in the 32-nation tournament.

But with games being played in 10 different stadiums dotted around the country, thousands of fans risk being stranded, though Air France said it would try to organize up to 160 extra flights connected to the event.

There could be really serious disruptions to preparations for the Cup later this week since several main rail unions have called for a 36-hour train strike starting on Friday.

The strike began despite a call late on Sunday by Transport Minister Jean-Claude Geyssot to get talks resumed between pilots and management.

"The future of the company is at stake at a time when the eyes of the world are going to be turned on us," Geyssot told TF-1 television.

Union representative Christian Paris said the pilots refused the salary cuts and disputed estimates that Air France pilots earned up to 40% more than British or German colleagues.

Botha accused of knowing of apartheid murders

By JULIETTE SAUNDERS

GEORGE, South Africa (Reuters) — Former president P.W. Botha, back on trial for shunning South Africa's truth commission, was accused yesterday of knowing far more than he admits about the liquidation of the opponents of apartheid.

In a full-frontal attack on Botha, an official from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) presented a host of documents detailing the state's plans to crush all opposition.

Foot soldiers of the apartheid regime, who are now seeking amnesty, say they killed black liberation leaders on orders from on high. Botha and other former leaders say such murders were the work of rogue elements.

Out of power since 1989, Pieter Willem Botha, 82, known as the "Great Crocodile" for his harsh suppression of black resistance, denies involvement, refuses to apologize for apartheid, and says he will answer only to God for his sins.

He said he prefers a trial —

charged with contempt for refusing to testify at the TRC in person — than appearing before the body which is examining the excesses of apartheid, but which he brands a circus and an anti-Afrikaner witch-hunt.

His trial opened in April for three days but was postponed until yesterday, when a close friend told reporters he is still trying to broker a deal to have the case dropped.

"I have been Mr. Botha's friend for 30 years and I am a loyal South African. This should not be settled in court but in negotiations," Botha's old hunting partner Boet Troskie said.

Troskie said he had talked with Botha on Sunday and planned to meet him again later yesterday. He also hoped to see TRC chairman Archbishop Desmond Tutu today.

Troskie's last-ditch bid to find a compromise follows earlier attempts by Tutu, Botha's lawyers, and President Nelson Mandela.

Far-right Freedom Front leader Constand Viljoen said yesterday he had also sought to intercede with Deputy President Thabo

Mbeki to halt the trial, but to no avail.

Botha ruled South Africa with an iron fist and wagging finger, as prime minister and later as president, from 1978 to 1989 when, weakened by a stroke, he was ousted by the reformist F.W. de Klerk, who went on to dismantle apartheid.

At the height of Botha's rule, up to 30,000 black opponents were jailed without charge under emergency laws. According to human rights groups, more than 20,000 people were killed in black-on-black violence or in clashes with police and soldiers.

Paul van Zyl, commission executive secretary and the first witness at the trial, said the last hard-line apartheid leader had chaired meetings where unlawful state killings were mooted.

In one document from 1979, an inner sanctum of security chiefs and cabinet ministers — the State Security Council — was briefed on plans for top-secret clandestine operations against anti-apartheid activists abroad.

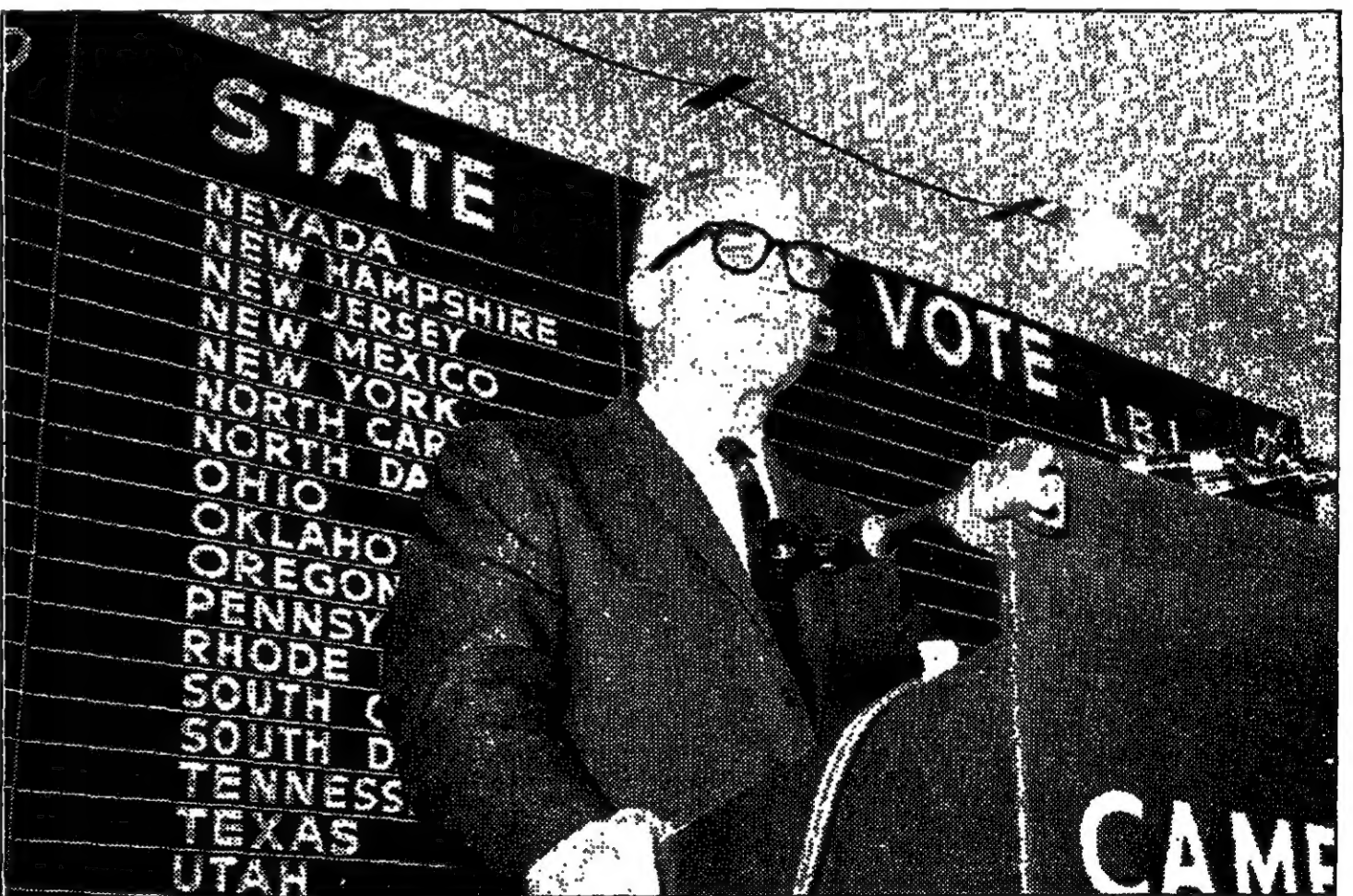
"The investigative unit of the

TRC has received information on cross-border operations where a range of people were killed, using parcel bombs. These were clearly illegal," van Zyl told the court in George, near Botha's Cape coast home.

"What the TRC would want to know, in fact, is whether the State Security Council did or did not authorize such operations," van Zyl said the words "destroy" and "neutralize," allegedly used in official documents talking about anti-apartheid activists, meant to kill — an interpretation former ruling National Party leaders have rejected.

The TRC ordered Botha to testify in person to account for his actions or to explain his government's policies in defense of white rule, which vanished with elections in 1994 won by President Nelson Mandela's African National Congress.

If convicted of contempt, he faces a fine of up to 20,000 rand (\$4,000). But chances that he will ever testify before the TRC are fading as the body winds up its two years of work.



Sen. Barry Goldwater seen here in his first public statement since his defeat for the presidency, at Camelback Inn near Phoenix, Arizona, Nov. 4, 1964 died last Friday at age 89. (AP)

Goldwater legacy runs deep in Arizona

By DAVID S. BRODER

PHOENIX (Washington Post) — For many in this sunny valley, especially those who grew up here, the passing of Barry M. Goldwater is like a death in the family.

They have spent hours since the news came Friday recalling the man who is known nationally as the father of modern-day conservatism but is cherished here as a patriarch who linked Arizona's frontier past with its booming present.

Patricia Caldwell, director of development at the Arizona Science Center and an ardent Democrat, recalled how her father, like many other African Americans, "worked and voted for him in every campaign."

"My dad was born in 1899. What mattered to him was that Lincoln had freed the slaves and that Barry Goldwater was an honest man," she said. "It didn't bother him that the senator opposed the civil rights bill in 1964. He said it must have been a flawed bill or his senator would have voted for it."

"As a child," she continued, "I remember the first credit card we ever had was for Goldwater's Department Store. I remember riding up the escalator and seeing that handsome picture of Barry at the top. I am very personally sad he is gone," she said.

Caldwell, like many longtime

community leaders, spent much of Saturday at a forum discussing the pros and cons of privatizing the Social Security system — one of many ideas that got Goldwater into hot water in his 1964 presidential campaign.

Betsy Bayless, the Republican secretary of state and a third-generation Arizonan, noted "he was always the same. Whether he was talking in the kitchen of our house or on national TV, you heard the same thoughts, the same language. Often that got him in trouble."

Along with his friends John J. Rhodes (R), who later became House minority leader, and Steve Shadegg, whose son now serves in the House, Goldwater led the conversion of Arizona from a Democratic bastion into a predominantly Republican state. He became an icon for two generations of fellow partisans.

One of them, Rep. J.D. Hayworth, said: "I still remember what a thrill it was to get a campaign contribution, a check signed Barry Goldwater." Hayworth has kept a photocopy of the check, and a place card with Goldwater's name on it from a Rotary luncheon where they both appeared in 1994. "On the back of his card, he wrote three words — Russia, China and freedom. That was all he needed for a wonderful 30-minute speech."

Goldwater's appeal reached

across party lines. Lorraine Frank, who has represented Arizona on the Democratic National Committee since 1980, said: "He knew, of course, I disagreed with him. But when I needed him on a civic project here, he came off the Senate floor to return my call."

For many, it was Goldwater's personality that was captivating. Monsignor Edward Ryle recalled co-chairing a charity dinner with Goldwater's second wife, Susan. "He joined us late and said three words: I'm the spouse."

There are lakes, parks, roads, rivers and public buildings all over the state bearing the Goldwater name. But perhaps the real shrine to his memory can be found in the Heard Museum here, a repository of Native American art and handicrafts. Goldwater was a life trustee of the museum, which displays several of the stunning photographs he took of Arizona landscapes and people, as well as all 437 of the Hopi Kachina dolls he started collecting on jaunts through rural areas in the 1940s and donated to the museum in 1964.

In the Kachina room where the dolls, carved from cottonwood roots as ceremonial gifts to young women, are displayed, visitors Saturday spoke of Goldwater.

Greta Schierer of Scottsdale said: "The pictures are so sensitive I can't believe they were taken by

the Barry Goldwater whose politics I hated growing up. He said some awful things, but the photos show another side entirely."

Goldwater was an extremely combative politician, as befitted a senator born three years before Arizona became a state in 1912, the son of an immigrant trading post operator on the raw frontier.

"He was always in touch with the Indians and the poor people," said Sandy Enfield, another museum visitor who grew up here and lives in Los Angeles. "I remember when I was in high school, he was on the city council, and he led the movement that disbanded what had been the all-black high school." "Later, we worked in his presidential campaign headquarters in Tucson, and every day, black people and poor people who knew what he had done came in with their few dollars or coins to contribute," Enfield said.

On an adobe wall outside the Kachina room are inscribed words from an unknown Pueblo man: "We have lived upon this land from days beyond history's record, far past any living memory. The story of my people and the story of this place are one single story. No man can think of us without thinking of this place."

In future generations, it is unlikely anyone will think of Arizona without thinking of Barry Goldwater.

Ex-Zimbabwe president charged with sodomy

By CRIS CHINKA

HARARE (Reuters) — Zimbabwe's former president Canaan Banana yesterday denied charges of sodomy, but one of his former guards said the 62-year-old cleric had laid on alcohol and ballroom music before sexually attacking him.

Banana, the southern African state's first but largely ceremonial president after independence from Britain in 1980, is facing 11 charges of sodomy, attempted sodomy, and indecent assault in a high-profile trial in Harare.

He pleaded not guilty to all the charges, which the state said would be backed by 40 witnesses, including top government officials.

Chief state prosecutor Augustine Chikumba said the former head of state had abused his authority by homosexually attacking some of the presidential staff.

"Taking advantage of his position, he coaxed a

number of men into sexual activities which they did not approve and which they resisted," he told High Court Judge President Godfrey Chidyausiku and two assessors. "In relation to some of the complainants, [if] his overtures were turned down, and spurned, he would cause them to be penalized under the guise that they had committed acts of misconduct."

Banana was first charged last July but the lower magistrates court hearing the case referred the trial to the high court.

The Supreme Court rejected Banana's efforts to have the trial scrapped on the grounds that his right to a fair hearing had been prejudiced by negative pre-trial publicity.

The state's witnesses include Vice President Simon Muzenda and some former army and police chiefs and Banana is calling 10 witnesses in his defense, including his wife Janet. The trial is expected to last a month.

What will stabilize Indonesia's financial chaos?

JAKARTA - In an era of electronic bank transfers and ATMs, Ari Komarrudin trusts neither machine nor man. The young Indonesian is pulling his life savings out of this nation's largest bank and finding a safe place for it at home.

In the chaotic world that is the Indonesian economy, the 27-year-old flight attendant is not sure what the future holds for Bank Central Asia, which was taken over by the government last week after anxious customers depleted the institution's coffers in a matter of days. But he wants his \$500 close enough that he can touch it.

"I'm a stranger in a strange land," he said, struggling for words to describe his confusing predicament.

For Americans who came of age during a time when the US dollar was king and Western-style capitalism ruled the global marketplace, it is difficult to comprehend the confusion and wrenching devastation that have followed Indonesia's precipitous fall from grace.

In less than a year, this giant Southeast Asian archipelago has

metamorphosed from one of the financial world's darlings to an economic basket case, a process that has led to an 80 percent drop in the value of its currency, the rupiah, a 40% climb in the prices of basic foods and a paralysis of commerce that has toppled even the best-run companies.

A country that had graduated into the middle tier of the developing world is now back among the poorest, with a per capita income equivalent to those of its neighbors Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos.

One Western banker compared the result to "dropping a 1920s-style recession on an America of the 1950s." It is this financial chaos that eventually drove former president Suharto from office May 21, bringing an unexpected end to a 32-year rule marked by a dramatic expansion of the overall economy and by the obscene enrichment of a few.

But while Suharto's resignation and the promised introduction of democracy have given voice to a new set of long-repressed political and economic players, they have also injected even more instability

into an economy desperately in need of strong guidance.

From Jakarta's boardrooms to its bedrooms, the continuing uncertainty is causing widespread confusion as even the most knowledgeable people despair of being able to protect what's left of their country, their companies and their fast-declining personal wealth.

"Right now, business people can't make plans. I don't even know what to do," said Mari Pangestu, executive director of the Center for Strategic and International Studies and one of the country's leading economists. "Should I be putting my money back in the bank? Should I put it somewhere else? The environment is still so unpredictable."

The uncertainty is both political and economic. The promise of elections in 1999 by the new president, B.J. Habibie, hardly ensures that he will lead until then - rumors of a military coup haunt him.

And officials of the International Monetary Fund left Jakarta on Saturday without giving any sign of when a promised \$1 billion infusion might be forthcoming.

ANALYSIS

By EVELYN JIRITANI

Hubert Neiss, the IMF's chief Asia official, said only that the agency was prepared to "do its best" to help the Indonesian government stop the fiscal hemorrhaging by providing technical assistance and financing.

Neiss, who is slated to report back to the IMF board this week, said the agency will need to adjust the terms of its \$43b. support package to reflect Indonesia's rapidly deteriorating economic state. While acknowledging that "every week's delay" makes the problems more difficult to fix, he said he could not commit to a date for the disbursement of the agency's next \$1b. Funds from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank are also hanging in the balance.

MEANWHILE, conventional economic wisdom no longer applies.

Essential indicators of economic health, such as the value of the rupiah and the share prices of the

288 companies listed on the Jakarta Stock Exchange, are governed by rumor more than fact. Most companies are in effect bankrupt, though many of them are still operating on borrowed time.

After riots left parts of Jakarta a charred ruin two weeks ago, frightened Indonesians started leaving their expensive jewelry and cars at home, locking their taxi doors and avoiding travel after dark.

Flights into Jakarta, once packed with foreign business people, are empty. Four-star hotels here feel like buildings in a ghost town - even though their rates are equivalent to that of a Holiday Inn in Los Angeles, and a meal with wine in the swankiest restaurants can be had for \$5.

Since the riots, the phones at the offices of Jim Castle, a prominent US business consultant and vice president of the American Chamber of Commerce here, have stopped ringing. Even before the unrest, business was at its lowest level since he opened his doors two decades ago.

"Until you see some political certainty, very few foreigners are going to come to Indonesia," he said. Over the long term, Indonesia

seems sure to be a very good market for everything from electrical power to Pampers, since it is the world's fourth most-populous country and is rich in oil and gas, minerals and fertile agricultural land.

Before last fall's currency crash, the economy was enjoying an 8% growth rate, although economists are now predicting a contraction of at least 15% this year.

Indonesia's middle class, which composed 10% to 20% of its 202 million people, has seen its buying power evaporate. The salaries of middle managers, who earned as much as their counterparts in Australia before last summer, have plummeted from an average of \$3,000 a month to \$700.

And those are the lucky ones. By the end of this year, at least 15 million additional Indonesians are expected to be unemployed, in a country without significant jobless benefits or retraining programs.

"I had confidence in Indonesia, so I agreed to be paid in rupiah," said one Western executive managing an Indonesian company.

"Before I was living like a king, earning \$250,000 a year. Now I make less than a shoe

salesman." He predicted that his company, which is being kept alive by monthly infusions of \$3 million to \$5m., can survive only one more quarter.

Business plans are of little use, because the economic ground shifts by the minute.

To restore the middle class, it will be essential to persuade foreigners and Indonesia's wealthy to bring their capital back into the country.

But many of its wealthiest citizens - largely ethnic Chinese who dominate the economy, despite their small numbers - are too frightened to return to Indonesia because the political turmoil has lifted the lid on racial tensions that have smoldered for decades in this predominantly Moslem country.

During the recent riots, companies owned by ethnic Chinese were targeted for burning and looting. Many of their owners fled with their money to havens in Singapore, Hong Kong and Australia, and they are still debating whether it would be safe to come home - particularly for those who cultivated close ties to Suharto. (Los Angeles Times)

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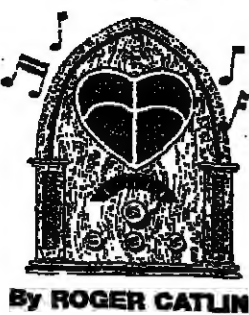
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Stevie Nicks goes it alone

In Tune



By ROGER CATLIN

After spending most of the 1990s out of the public eye, Stevie Nicks is following last year's successful Fleetwood Mac reunion with a solo concert tour.

"I've never been able to do anything like this," says Nicks, who turned 50 this week.

In a tour intended to promote her new three-disc boxed set *Enchanted*, she'll be able to highlight songs from deep in her catalog. But she'll also find room for Mac classics such as "Rhiannon," "Gold Dust Woman" and "Dreams."

"I'm going to do a version of 'Landslide,' since I have two incredible guitarists," she says, "and they should be able to play the part almost as well as Lindsey." There is one thing she won't try without Lindsey Buckingham, her longtime romantic collaborator, with whom she joined Fleetwood Mac.

It's "Silver Springs," the B-side that became a hit from the 1997 live reunion album, *The Dance*. The song seemed directed at Buckingham. In concert, it became a searing statement as she stood to face him as she sang it.

"I can't do 'Silver Springs' without Lindsey," she says. "After people seeing us and having it on TV all the time, I think it would be kind of an empty song without the other person."

Getting a set list together for the concert shouldn't be any more difficult than sifting her solo career into a 46-track boxed set. That selection was made shortly after the Mac tour ended in December. And the tracks don't follow chronological order.

"I wanted people to say, 'Could that have been yesterday, or could that have been 10 years ago?'"

Nicks, who chose the order of songs on the best-selling *Runaways* album, thinks sequencing is one of her best unsung skills.

"It's one of my favorite things to do."

Her secret is to march beginnings and ends of songs. "If you like the way the end of one song goes into the beginning of the next one, I figure you'll probably listen to the whole song." That also made for some startling juxtapositions on her boxed set.

"On the third disc, I put 'Twister' and 'Long Distance Winner' together because of the incredible similarity between the sound of the voice and the songs."

Never mind that one song was written for the 1996 disaster movie and the other came from the long out-of-print *Buckingham Nicks* duet album 23 years earlier.

The name of the boxed set *Enchanted* was suggested by her brother, Christopher Nicks, who was art director of the project.

"Enchanted" had always been his favorite song, so that was the first thing he thought about," she says. "And of course, in the mystical way I live my life, 'Enchanted' seems to make a lot of sense to me." Magic also was involved in the Mac reunion, she says. By now, it seems like it didn't even happen.

"The whole Fleetwood Mac thing seems like just a dream. It went by so fast. It was a lot of concerts — 45 concerts — and it went by so fast."

Musically, it was most satisfying, she says. "It was like being back in the '70s. It was as close to feeling like I did in the beginning of my whole rock 'n' roll life."

Any chance for future Fleetwood Mac music seems to be in the hands of Christine McVie, who decided to return to England in December.

"She said, 'I did what I said I was going to do and I'm going home,'" Nicks says. "What are you going to say to somebody who says that to you — 'No, you can't'? We all did our best to convince her to finish out this [tour to promote the live album] and she didn't want to. So we thought: Better to let her go and give her lots of love and she'll come around."

"It doesn't worry me in the least that Fleetwood Mac will not always somehow be together," she says.

"I mean, how could we not do any music after what just happened with us?"

(The Hartford Courant)

David Brinn will return next week.



The three protagonists of 'Petra' decide to recreate their journey to the 'red rock.'

A first 'anarchic' play

By HELEN KAYE

In the 1950s, Petra was as unreachable as the Gila, and those who reached the rock-girded rose-red Jordanian desert city became part of Israel's iconography, heroes to emulate in that hero-hungry time. The Beduin killed 14 of those who tried. For them, reaching Petra was worth dying for.

"The awful thing is that this old fascist idea, dying for your country, isn't dead. It's gotten worse," says Yehonatan Gefen.

He's the author of *Petra*, a Cameri Theater production currently previewing at ZOA House in Tel Aviv. He calls his highly comic play a satire and "the first really anarchic play in this country because in it nothing, but nothing is sacred, not even the Holocaust."

Petra's three protagonists, spurred by a hero-worshipping journalist, decide to recreate their journey to the "red rock," as the famous Fifties song "Hasela

Ha'adom" called it.

Past and present cross their increasingly death-driven actual and metaphorical journey. They can deal with destruction. It's living they find difficult.

Heroism and self-sacrifice "were the ideals we grew up with," Gefen continues. "We all wanted to be Arik Sharon or Meir Har-Zion [the first one to reach Petra, as well as a war hero]. I hope the play can show people that there is nothing so sacred that it's worth dying for."

"Hero-worship pervaded the Fifties and Sixties," says *Petra* director Eldad Ziv, "and I think that [still today] Israeli society is almost 'pathologically' militaristic." He says he passed himself off as a combat soldier for years, even though he was only attached to a combat unit in another capacity.

Petra is the third time in as many years that Ziv and Gefen have collaborated on one of the latter's acerbic, very Israeli plays. The others were *Cyprus*, which

pilloried the Seventies, and *Numa Emek*, which peeled the idealism from the kibbutz movement.

The two complement and enrich each other. Ziv is in on the writing from its inception. Gefen comes to Ziv's rehearsals, but at a certain point, says Ziv, "we leave each other alone to get it done."

Ziv is a playwright himself, author of *Laisse Moi T'aimer*, a comedy about '70s singer Mike Brandt, and *Of Life and Death*, which looks at our relationship to our literary icons.

Collaboration with Gefen usually starts "when I'm busy writing and Yehonatan comes and bothers me. 'Go away and write,' I tell him. He does, and he's faster than me."

Audience reaction to *Petra* has been extreme, both men say, from whistling adulation to catcalls and shouts of "shame."

In *Atula*, says Gefen "many of the men in the audience come from the same milieu as the play's heroes, and they sat there as if that world was going up in flames."

Oren lives through the music



Concert Roundup

FIORINZA CEDOLINIS as the pure Amelia, the solid baritone Edoardo Tuganjan as the heroic protagonist and Wicco Slabbert as operatic villain Paolo, or perhaps the bass Paul Plishka (the noble Piesco), who plunges into the lower register with unbelievable ease. And the tenor Alberto

SIMON BOCCANEGRA
By Giuseppe Verdi
IPO concert performance
Mann Auditorium
May 29

Capido is no less convincing as Amelia's love, Gabriele.

The Philharmonia Singers choir is most impressive, especially in forte, and the IPO gives you a strong feeling that in this country we still have something to be proud of.

Although the score on the whole lacks dynamics, maestro Daniel Oren literally lives through the

music — he jumps, he sways his tall body, he almost dances on the podium.

VIOLINISTS' ENSEMBLES are not often heard on our stages, which made the concert of the IPO's violinists even more enjoyable.

In a selection of popular classic pieces — from the solemn *Ave Maria* by J.S. Bach to Fauré's caressing *Andante* and passionate *Romanza Andaluza* by Sarasate — the violin-

VIOLINISTS' ENSEMBLE
Chamber Music Club
IPO Guest House
May 23

ists displayed noble, lush, pure sound and impeccable virtuosity. The elegant arrangements, all done by the ensemble's music director Alexander Povolozky.

The piano (Ella Pasik) was an organic part of the musical canopy, and the soloists — both of the IPO — were in good form. In *L'ultima canzone* by Toschi, beautiful Marina Levit, with her liquid soprano, rendered the story of a young man who bids a biter farewell to his love yet knows that his life is not over, while the powerhouse tenor Felix Livshitz was all Italian bliss in the selection of Neapolitan songs and somber Russian fervor in Gliere's

Romance. Maxim Reider

THE LUSH countertenor of James Bowman resounded with clarity and precision through the gorgeous acoustics of the Abu Ghosh Church as he sang some of the most beautiful music ever written for his instrument. Accompanied by the very professional and able Jerusalem Baroque Orchestra under the precise directorship of David Shemer from the harpsichord, Bowman sang, as if effortlessly, some of the most touching arias Handel ever wrote.

The highlight was the cantata "Mi palpita il cor" for alto and flute in which Bowman's duet with Idit Shemer on the baroque flute was mesmerizing.

The full scope of Bowman's countertenor emerged in the cantata

James Bowman sings
Handel and Haydn
Abu Ghosh
May 31

"Nisi Dominus" by Vivaldi. It was a glorious conclusion to a concert that brought the splendor of baroque vocal music to the forefront. There are not that many countertenors today and there are even fewer good ones. James Bowman is one of the best. Michael Aizenstadt

Phil Hartman's death still a mystery

By MICHAEL FLEEMAN

Police believe that comic actor Phil Hartman was shot to death by his wife, who later killed herself as authorities arrived to investigate.

Hartman, who won fame with his impersonations of President Clinton, Frank Sinatra and other celebrities on the US television show *Saturday Night Live* and played a radio anchor on the sitcom *NewsRadio*, was killed Thursday morning in the master bedroom of his \$1.4 million home in an exclusive section of Encino, California.

Police believe Brynn Hartman, 40, shot her 49-year-old husband then killed herself.

As police rushed their children, ages 6 and 9, out of the house, they heard a single gunshot and found Mrs. Hartman's body near that of her husband.

"We are investigating this as a possible murder-suicide," police Lt. Anthony Alba said. "We know for sure that the female inflicted her own gunshot wound." What they don't know for sure is the motive.

Police were investigating the most obvious possibility — marital strife.

Sieve Small, an attorney who handled Hartman's two previous divorces, said Mrs. Hartman had trouble controlling her anger. He said the couple had separated more than once; she reportedly had been married once before and divorced.

"She got attention by losing her temper," Small said. "Phil said he had to restrain her at times."

Hollywood expressed shock and sadness, saying Hartman's specialty

in playing annoying, acerbic, morally challenged characters ran counter to his real-life personality as an upbeat, devoted family man.

"He was one of those guys who was a dream to work with. I don't know anybody who didn't like him," said Joe Danie, who was directing Hartman in the movie *Small Soldiers*.

Mrs. Hartman, whose given name was Vicki Omdahl, grew up in the Minnesota town of Thief River Falls, moved to Hollywood with dreams of a modeling career, changed her name and married Hartman in 1987.

BORN Philip Edward Hartmann in Ontario, Canada, Hartman — who later dropped the second "n" — was one in a line of Canadian-born comedians to find success in the United States, including Dan Akroyd and the late John Candy.

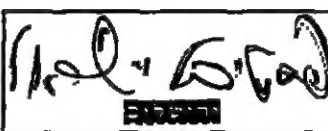
Unlike them, Hartman grew up in the US, first in Connecticut, then in Southern California.

Drawn to stand-up comedy, Hartman joined the Groundlings comedy troupe in Los Angeles in 1975. He collaborated with fellow Groundlinger Paul "Pee-wee" Herman on the script of the movie *Pee-wee's Big Adventure*.

In 1986 he joined *Saturday Night Live*. In his eight seasons, he did impersonations of more than 70 famous people, including Jimmy Swaggart, Phil Donahue, Frank Sinatra and President Bill Clinton.

Hartman also did voices for the television cartoon show *The Simpsons*, including washed-up actor Troy McClure and inept lawyer Lyle Lutz. (AP)

'Portrait': Oriental overkill



Portrait

ISRAEL FESTIVAL REVIEW

By MICHAEL FLEEMAN

THE CLOUD GATE DANCE Theater, a contemporary dance company from Taiwan, made an interesting

PORTRAIT OF THE FAMILIES
Cloud Gate Dance Theater
Sherover Theater
May 31

attempt to create a meaningful work that combines documentary materials with contemporary dance.

Portrait of the Families is a concise historical and political account of the Far Eastern island and its people, who strive for a cohesive identity.

Lin Hwai-min uses Western art

forms to state his case. This is a clear example of where the result didn't measure up to the honorable intent.

The work had the right ingredients: intriguing and striking dancers, the "right" musical backing of Arvo Part with a touch of traditional music, strong documentary materials like photographs and excerpts from oral interviews with people who gave accounts of the suffering and pain.

The repetitious bombardment of direct information, however, that didn't seep through artistic filters, resulted in numbing the senses and diminishing the power of the work.

TODAY AT THE FESTIVAL

JERUSALEM THEATER

Sheroover — Cloud Gate dance, *Portrait of the Families*, 4 and 9 p.m.

Rebecca Crown — Yusef Ve'ehad, cross-cultural music, 10 p.m.

Plaza — Pocket Circus Theater, *Puppet Cabaret*, 6 p.m. (for kids); *Tarraram*, drums, rhythm and fire spectacle, 7:45 p.m.; Piano duo, 9 p.m.

SHORASHIM TRIPS FOR ENGLISH SPEAKERS

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SUNDAY, JUNE 7. JOSEPHUS FLAVIUS IS OUR GUIDE

Did he desert his people two thousand years ago, or serve them — as a historian? We'll learn more when we visit YODFAT, the second Masada, and ZIPPORI, the seat of the Sanhedrin in Talmudic times and whose beautiful mosaics and impressive antiquities are now revealed.

GUIDE: Israel Ne'eman. NIS 225.

THURSDAY, JUNE 18. IF I WAS A RICH MAN...

Baron Edmund de Rothschild helped the first allyah with great generosity. We'll see some of the benefits when we visit beautiful ZICHRON YA'ACOV, overlooking the Mediterranean, BAT SHLOMO, the MIKVE YISRAEL agricultural school, and the MIZGAGA MUSEUM center for archeological research.

GUIDE: Avi Ben Hur. NIS 225.

SUNDAY, JUNE 21. THE BIBLE SITES BEFORE YOUR EYES

Tour guide and Bible scholar Arie Salomon leads you to the sites while you read from the sources. MAR GILLO, JUDAH & TAMAR, DAVID & GOLIATH in the Valley of Eila, the LACHISH letters, and fire signals from AZEKA, the MIDRAS caves. Everything comes into focus in this not-to-be-missed tour.

NIS 225.

SUNDAY, JULY 5. ANCIENT SYNAGOGUES OF THE GALILEE

After Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 CE and following the Bar Kochba rebellion, the Jews fled to the Galilee where their life began to flourish. We'll begin to understand what really happened when we visit HAMAT TIBERIAS, CORAZIM and CAPERNAUM.

GUIDE: Eliot Chodof. NIS 230.

SUNDAY, JULY 26. ACRE - THE CRUSADER CITY

Battled over through the centuries. Important Crusader port for 100 years. We'll visit the Hospitaliers Quarter and view the new discoveries, the Templars Quarter, the El Jazzer mosque, the Turkish baths, the market and more. A tour steeped in history.

GUIDE: Avi Ben Hur. NIS 225.

The tour price includes transportation from Jerusalem or Tel Aviv and return, entrance to all sites, background lectures and on-the-spot explanations. Pick-up and drop-off along the route when possible and arranged beforehand.

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Salome: Victim or spoiled, neurotic princess?

OPERA REVIEW

By MICHAEL FLEEMAN

The mystery of love is greater than the mystery of death, sings the princess Salome serenely, a few minutes before being beaten to death by her stepfather's soldiers, as she kisses the mouth of the dead Jokanaan (John the Baptist).

There is some formidable underlying truth behind this smugifying Strauss/Oscar Wilde drama, for which we cannot give a simple explanation.

But it could be told in all its musical glory — and this is exactly

what the superb Kirov orchestra does, under the precise and noble baton of its music director Valery Gergiev.

Thus both emerge as the real heroes of the long-awaited Israeli

SALOME
By Richard Strauss
Kirov Opera
TAPAC
May 31

premiere of one of the greatest twentieth century operas — *Salome*, the story of lust and impossible love, of ascetic Christian ardor, and amoral pagan potty.

The rest of the production, solid as it is, is less impressive. Not that the soloists are vocally flimsy — far from it. But most of the characters are lacking in dramatic vividness and emotional credibility and are less sophisticated than the score assumes, which stands in relief against the impeccable and sumptuous orchestral playing.

Valeria Stenikina, in the lead, has a beautiful though not too powerful soprano (or are the TAPAC acoustics to blame?). She is young and beautiful herself, but she never decided what kind of Salome she wanted to be. Is she a victim or a spoiled and neurotic creature? She was Juliet-like at first, then she turned into a demanding and offended Delilah.

But in her last soliloquy to the dead Jokanaan, she was not chilling enough to appall Herod, who orders her killed.

And where has the prophet's (baritone Nikolai Putilin) religious zeal gone, which makes him different from his pagan surroundings and bewitches the princess?

Tenor Leonid Zakhojcev makes a sweet but rather weak Narraboth, not really convincing as the young officer who kills himself because his princess rejects him.

Totally plebeian but strong and far from stupid, Herod (tenor Konstantin Ploumnikov), his wife Herodias — willful, if slightly too vulgar (soprano Makhlava Kasashvili), and the epicene Page (beautiful mezzo-soprano Lyubov

Sokolova) are among the obvious successes of the production.

The designer George Zipin created the claustrophobic, if somewhat traditional, settings for this opera — grayish arches and staircases spiraling into the pagan sky, changing from faded blue to bloody-red, and the moon, indifferently illuminating the doomed and decadent court of Herod.

Julie Taymor's direction has some refreshing moments, but on the whole it is quite static and straightforward, as if the director did not totally rely on Strauss's music as on the omniscient storyteller, and thus her sense of proportion sometimes fails.

But the glorious music compensates for it all.

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Counterproductive cynicism

A minister bellows from the Knesset podium: "to you" toppling the government is more important than a united Jerusalem."

That was foreign minister Shimon Peres three years ago, berating opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu for supporting a no-confidence motion by the Arab parties against a government move to expropriate land in Jerusalem. Now Labor is grappling with the same dilemma that faced Likud then — a choice between power and principle.

A debate is raging within the Labor Party over what to do if the government finally brings a redeployment plan to the Knesset for a vote, and right-wing elements transform the vote into a motion of no-confidence. Should Labor provide a "safety net" to the government when it moves forward with the peace process, or team up with right-wing attempts to bring down the government?

In a spirited three-hour debate among Labor MKs yesterday, Haggai Merom argued that if Netanyahu brings forward a redeployment plan that is acceptable to the government and the Palestinians, the party must vote for it. To most outside observers, such a position might seem so obvious that it hardly needs stating. Yet major players within Labor, such as MKs Ra'anan Cohen and Haim Ramon, disagree.

Ramon points out that there would be no point in voting for the redeployment plan one day and then voting to topple the government a day later. To be consistent, Labor would have to support the government over the period of plan's implementation. By then, however, the government would be into final-status talks, and there would always be another reason why Labor needed to support the government or else be seen as opposing peace.

Though Ramon's position has a certain logic to it, it is also surprisingly frank about Labor's priorities. In essence, it paints Labor as not interested in whether the government actually follows the path that Labor itself advocates. In fact, the implication of Ramon's argument is that the danger ahead for Labor is that the peace process will actually move forward, making it more difficult to topple the current government.

Barak has lately sharpened his rhetoric, evidently in response to heavy criticism that he has been too soft on Netanyahu. Speaking at a press conference marking two years since Netanyahu's election, Barak warned, "we are on the brink of disaster... Innocent citizens, women and children and also soldiers, are going to die here without any reason or cause."

Presumably, this dire prediction assumes there will be no redeployment deal, or that the peace process is doomed to collapse into violence under this government, sooner or later. If the government does reach an agreement with the Palestinians, however, it will be hard to argue that bringing the government down at that very moment will advance the peace process. In that case, Labor support for a no-confidence motion would display precisely the cynicism that Netanyahu displayed three years ago, probably with the same counterproductive result.

lapse of the peace process, a deepening recession, a crisis with the United States — all these are in Labor's narrow political interests, just as they were in the Likud's interest when it was in the opposition.

It is the responsibility of the opposition, however, not to succumb to the temptation to bring calamity upon the nation in the hope that it, the opposition, will benefit.

Of course, Labor advocates of bringing down the government would argue that they are not throwing sand in the wheels of the peace process, but bursting an illusion of movement in order to replace it with the real thing. In this view, the government will never implement even an approved redeployment plan, because it will keep blaming the Palestinians for not measuring up to the plan's conditions.

If this is the case, however, the appropriate course of action for Labor is to put the government's intentions to the test, rather than assuming failure in advance. Opposition leader Ehud Barak has rightly backed the government's demands that Oslo not be a one-way street, and that the Palestinians abide by their commitments to fight terrorism. He therefore should support at least whatever conditions the Palestinians themselves agree to as part of a redeployment deal. If the government unilaterally breaks Israel's part of the bargain, then the opposition would not be compromising its principles by attempting to bring it down.

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LEE 98



Dangerous tests

YOSSI BEILIN

The change in the situation in our region, following the nuclear tests of India and Pakistan, and — perhaps to a greater extent — following their announcement that they have weapons of mass destruction, is the most dramatic change in decades. These developments have, in fact, produced a new strategic equation.

Under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, there is no formal framework for this new situation. Either you are one of the five powers that legitimately possess nuclear weapons, or you are a country prohibited from developing such devices. If a country in the latter group — say, one in South America — does so, it must destroy them. The treaty maintains a club to which there is no entry.

Up until now, the world tolerated secret members of the club, on condition that they slipped past the bouncers. But these two new members are demanding to sit in the front row, even though no one is willing to sell them tickets. Will they be forced to leave the club? Does the bouncer have enough muscle to throw out these bullies? And what will the others, who remained outside, and wish to enter, do? Will the Indian-Pakistani precedent and the silence of the world accelerate the entry of other toughs?

At the moment, these questions remain unanswered. The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty tried to freeze the status quo that prevailed in 1968. Since then, the world has changed, particularly with the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War. But the treaty did not change, and was even extended, a few years ago, under tremendous

happiness of India's poor, when an extreme nationalist and inexperienced prime minister announces the nuclear tests to his people. Then you see the happy poor of Pakistan, dancing joyously in the streets at a similar announcement by their prime minister. And you say to yourself — how easy it is to stupefy these miserable people with nationalistic nonsense and to avoid dealing with the terrible social problems on both sides of the border. How easy it is to make these miserable people happy with a few unnecessary and dangerous nuclear tests.

The first half of the 20th century was a time of terrible world wars. The second half was a period of Cold War and deterrence. The 21st century may be a period of weapons of mass destruction held by countries having a low threshold of readiness to use them. At the same time, the ability of the old "club" to prevent the new situation will be extremely limited.

The most effective way to reduce this existential threat will be to reduce, as much as possible, the intensity of local disputes. This does not necessarily mean that one side must concede all its claims while the other side gets everything it wants. But it does put, for example, a dispute about 2% here or there of a further redeployment in proper proportion.

One must take a broader perspective and understand that our regional dispute must not be allowed to enter the 21st century, when it is accompanied by a nuclear balance of terror. The reminders of the last few days makes the need to find a solution to the Middle East problem even more vital.

YOU look from afar and see the

Croatia's trial

EFFRAIM ZUROFF

The imminent extradition of Nazi war criminal Dinko Sakic from his adopted homeland Argentina to his birthplace, and the scene of his crimes, Croatia, has focused attention on the latter country's record during World War II and its attitude towards Nazi war criminals which, at least until recently, has been highly problematic.

Sakic, who served as the last commander of the notorious Croatian concentration camp Jasenovac, in which hundreds of thousands of inmates (mostly Serbs, but Jews and Gypsies as well) were murdered was among the numerous Croats who joined the fascist Ustasha movement and actively participated in the mass murder of Serbs, Jews, and Gypsies in independent Croatia.

This state, which was the creation of the Nazis, existed only during the years 1941-1945, but during that period conducted a horribly brutal campaign against all non-Croats.

After the war, the Croatian Ustasha leader Ante Pavelic and a considerable number of his most trusted followers were able to escape punishment. Like so many of their German counterparts, quite a few found refuge in Argentina.

With the dismemberment of Yugoslavia in 1993, Croatia once again became independent. One would have assumed, or at least hoped, that this new state would seek to distance itself from its fascist predecessor. Unfortunately, however, that was not the case. Even though its leader President Tudjman had impeccable anti-Nazi credentials (he fought with Tito's partisans against the Germans), he chose to seek inspiration from Croatia's brief period of independence, its Ustasha regime notwithstanding.

To make matters worse, in his book *The Wastelands of Historical Reality*, he accused the Jews of purposely inflating the number of the victims of the Holocaust and charged that Jews had run the Jasenovac concentration camp.

Under such circumstances, it is hardly surprising that absolutely no effort has been made to date by the new regime to investigate, let alone prosecute, the Ustasha murderers who had never been brought to trial.

Yet when Sakic was exposed in Argentina, Croatia promptly submitted a request for his extradition, even though it subsequently emerged that his presence in South America had been known in Croatia all along.

A COMBINATION of factors which revolve around Croatia's desire to improve its relations with the US and Israel motivated a step which only months ago would have seemed improbable, if not impossible.

And the question now is whether the investigation of Sakic will be conducted fairly, effectively and comprehensively and whether his trial will serve not only to achieve justice, but also to help educate a society which has heretofore lived in total denial of the crimes committed by its nationals against innocent civilians during World War II.

In that regard, there is indeed a danger that neither justice nor education will be achieved by having Sakic tried in his native country. Part of these reservations pertain specifically to the documentary evidence and key survivor-witnesses who are currently in Belgrade or elsewhere in Yugoslavia.

Given the long-standing hostility between Serbs and Croats and the current political tensions between these two countries, the fear is that the full story of Sakic's crimes at Jasenovac may not be revealed and that he therefore may be spared punishment.

Those concerns are legitimate and based on the current Croatian regime's attitude towards World War II, they are, in fact, quite logical. In that respect, the call by the Simon Wiesenthal Center and other agencies for the trial to take place in the country where the crimes were committed was a calculated risk.

On the surface and based on its record to date, Croatia is indeed a questionable venue for such a trial, but it is precisely an event of this sort which might ultimately succeed in triggering the national soul-searching and educational process that are so necessary for Croatian society, and which would never have taken place otherwise. In that respect, Croatia's prompt extradition request is perhaps a harbinger of positive developments.

Whether or not that will indeed be the case will determine not only the personal fate of Nazi criminal Dinko Sakic but will also deeply affect the future of Croatia, and its relations with its neighbors, as well as with Israel and the Jewish world.

The writer is director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Jerusalem.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PARANOID EXERCISE

Sir, — I wonder how long Dr. Dershowitz of Herzliya Pituh has been in Israel?

Her recent letter "Flag flying" (May 26), regarding flying the flag on Independence Day seems to suggest — not long.

Many of us old-timers do not feel that we are obliged to fly a flag to prove that we love this country. We are physically here and that's proof enough.

Showing the flag can be construed and misconstrued, therefore her research project on which car owners were patriotic was a paranoid exercise, which in fact proved

nothing. Our car doesn't display any stickers because my husband thinks they are messy. However, we proudly fly the flag on Independence Day even though, Dr. Dershowitz, we are liberal, traditional and Shalom Havemiks.

With due respect, if you are a concerned citizen, your time would be better spent noting and reporting dangerous driving behavior.

ZELDA HARRIS

Netanya.

FRIGHTENED FOR THE FUTURE

Sir, — Is this the home of Captain Queeg? Each day as the new headlines dawn, I'm plunged deeper and deeper into the realization that our prime minister has no idea where his ship (our country) is headed.

His morning statements are contradicted by his evening pronouncements, based on pressure from one group or another. Yes, there will be a committee to discuss army enlistment of yeshiva students. Oops, I mean no, there will be no such committee (after a few threatening phone calls).

Yes, there will be a 13% withdrawal. Oops, I never said that. Yes, we're determined to make peace with our Palestinian neighbors, but first we build new settle-

ments, deploy more soldiers in the territories, and God help the Palestinians if they should dare to declare an independent state.

Meanwhile, 5,000 tourist industry workers have been fired, the economy has taken a severe downward trend, violence flares in the territories and east Jerusalem, and Benjamin Netanyahu continues to offend, aggravate, threaten and cajole world leaders.

I'm frightened for my future and that of my country. The ship is sinking...it's time the captain was removed!!

HONEY STOLLMAN

Jerusalem.

ONLY TOO TRUE

Sir, — Naomi Schendowich is to be congratulated on her courage in writing her letter "Let's pack our bags" (May 27).

She is 100% right, except the headline to the letter should have been "Take your bathing suit," because the only way for us to escape will be by taking to the sea, as all the land routes will be closed to us.

Schendowich's belief that the Arabs will never be satisfied with 13% or 15%, but want the whole country is only too true. I am surprised that some people still believe that there will be peace.

HERMANN J. MAYER

Jerusalem.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On June 2, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported that thousands of people swarmed the streets of Haifa to watch a large-scale celebration of the First Fruits Festival.

50 years ago: On June 2, 1948, *The Palestine Post* reported that both Jews and Arabs accepted the Security Council's call for a four-week cease-fire, temporarily ending all fierce battles ranging from

SNOKE-FREE POLICY

Sir, — While El Al is to be commended for its new smoke-free policy in the air, we still have a long way to go against smoking on the ground. Of particular concern are school buses, whose rivers often smoke, against the law, while transporting children.

Moreover, even if they don't smoke while actually driving children, drivers frequently fill the bus with smoke and smell before the youngsters enter. The result is that students, some with respiratory problems, can be exposed twice a day all year long to concentrated quantities of toxic second-hand smoke. According to the education ministry, bus companies are not legally obliged to ban this widespread practice by their employees.

As a parent and as a physician, we find it unacceptable that, in 1998, paying passengers can have smokeless environments up here but children of taxpayers can't have the same down here.

AVROM JACOBS
LAURA F. JACOBS, MD, PhD

Kochav Yair.

PRIMARY FOCUS

Sir, — Liat Collins, in "Furor over Knesset invitation to 'Inciter'" (May 26), reports that: "The primary focus of the IASPS... is analysis and research of Israel's economy."

That's ridiculous! Their primary focus is clearly stated on their Internet homepage: "The policy research focus of the Institute for Advanced Strategic and Political Studies, Jerusalem and Washington, is the critique of socialism."

This critique is directed toward Israeli socialism as a leading instrument in undermining the Western tradition, including the Jewish state. No wonder Robert Loewenberg's planned lecture in the Knesset was cancelled.

DR. ALEXANDER WEIS
Ein-Harod, Hud.

the Negev to the Syrian border. Before the cease-fire was imposed, Israel bombed Amman and silenced Iraqi jets in the Tulkarm-Jenin-Nablus area. Alexander Zvielli

A new...
GVIROL, MEET GR...
SAVE

העיתון הירושלמי

A new breed: Gadflies with gigabytes

Community activists looking to be heard used to be limited to local meetings. But the Internet has opened up a whole new world of opportunity for political gadflies to get their message across. **Nicholas Riccardi** gets the buzz on how these 'fledgling revolutionaries' are making a sometimes dramatic impact on local politics

From the cramped, book-lined dining room of his modest bungalow, Rene Amy wages war against the Pasadena Unified School District via modem.

The 37-year-old father of two school-aged children in Pasadena, California, badgers bureaucrats and catalogs mini-scandals on his World Wide Web site, a quirky digital newsletter where investigative reporting meets *Mad* magazine.

"Audit the PUSD," Amy demands on the first page. A few clicks away, he documents \$4,000 worth of bar tabs run up by district employees and details how school employees accessed Internet porn sites. Posted nearby is the transcript of a routine by the Monty Python comedy troupe.

Amy's activism follows a half-century-old American tradition — that of the lone gadfly who shows up at public meetings to rail at elected leaders over everything from obscure procedural violations to wasteful spending, trying to rouse a complacent public. Usually, their arguments are ignored, and they go home frustrated.

But Amy is a gadfly with gigabytes, and like other community activists who have gone online, his perch on the information superhighway has given him new reach.

While once their rants and pleas were heard only by those who sit through interminable city council or school board meetings, this new Gadfly Nation can communicate directly with anyone in town with a computer and modem, as well as network with like-minded activists across the country.

Amy and others like him who used to be dismissed as ineffective nuisances are now on the "forefront of a revolution," said Terry Franke, director of the California First Amendment Coalition, which often gives legal advice to local activists. "If [activists] use [the Internet] as an extension of their efforts to get attention for the causes they wage, then it can be very powerful," he says.

Many of these fledgling revolutionaries remain voices in the wilderness, their crusades as unnoticed in cyberspace as they were in the city council chambers. But in cities from Pasadena to Stamford, Connecticut, Internet activism is slowly making an impact — sometimes small, sometimes dramatic — on local politics.

That impact comes from the Internet's unique ability to spread information, said the creator of a Web site dedicated to stopping the conversion of El Toro Marine Corps Air Station in Southern California into a commercial airport.

"It used to be in politics that the politicians could keep a lot of things to themselves. Information is power, and by sitting on a lot

of things they achieved their objectives more easily," said Len Kranser, a retired businessman who lives in Dana Point, Calif.

"We're just having a much more informed group of community activists who have access to hundreds of documents."

Benjamin Barber, a professor of politics at Rutgers University who studies online political discourse, cautions that the Internet can be a blessing and a curse in local politics.

"It has enhanced some of the virtues of local politics — instant communication, ongoing interaction, quick response time and strength of community," said Barber, author of the best-selling book *Jihad vs. McWorld*.

Pros of the Internet in local politics: It enables instant communication, ongoing interaction, quick response and strength of community.

Cons: It eases the spread of gossip, rumors, lies and anonymous slurs

"The problem is that it also enhances the vices of local politics — gossip, rumors, lies, anonymous slurs," Barber said. Some sites, like Amy's, mostly quote media accounts and display city documents. But others make liberal use of unnamed sources and unsubstantiated allegations.

One gadfly's site about the city of Colton, California, includes "public comments" from anonymous e-mailers speculating about city affairs.

Named after the biting insects that pester horses — and occasionally get swatted by horses' tails — gadflies can be major irritants for public officials and bureaucrats. In Pasadena, school officials complain that Amy burns up their time with his constant demands for documents, while others say Amy's focus on small wrongdoings distracts from discussion of larger and more serious issues.

"He is a bully. His bullying techniques are the fax machine, the US mail, the television and

print media and the Internet," school district spokeswoman Betsy Richman said. "He desperately seeks attention."

Amy is a natural-born gadfly — with what he calls an "investigative nature" and a pit bull's tendency to never let go. An independent contractor who makes house repairs, Amy got involved in the public schools in 1992 when he volunteered to do maintenance work on his children's elementary school.

He said he became frustrated with the glacial pace of school district bureaucracy that left exposed light bulbs and unsafe playground equipment within arm's reach of students.

Eventually, he began questioning how the district spent state money for his children's gifted programs. He griped that the money was spent on administration rather than teaching, and when officials ignored his complaints, he went to the local press.

Amy said his site has received about 3,000 hits from computer users across the country, a tiny number by Internet standards, but a lot of potential contacts and exposure for a small-time activist on a tight budget.

One of the visitors was Standard and Poor's, which recently checked out Amy's site before giving the district its top bond rating.

And by one measure, Amy's online foray has worked. His cause attracted attention in area newspapers and the local evening news, and now a group of about 20 people who live within the school district boundaries meet irregularly to discuss the issues he voices.

Pasadena school officials say that Amy represents no one but himself, pointing to a "lack of a major movement to arise" from his campaign.

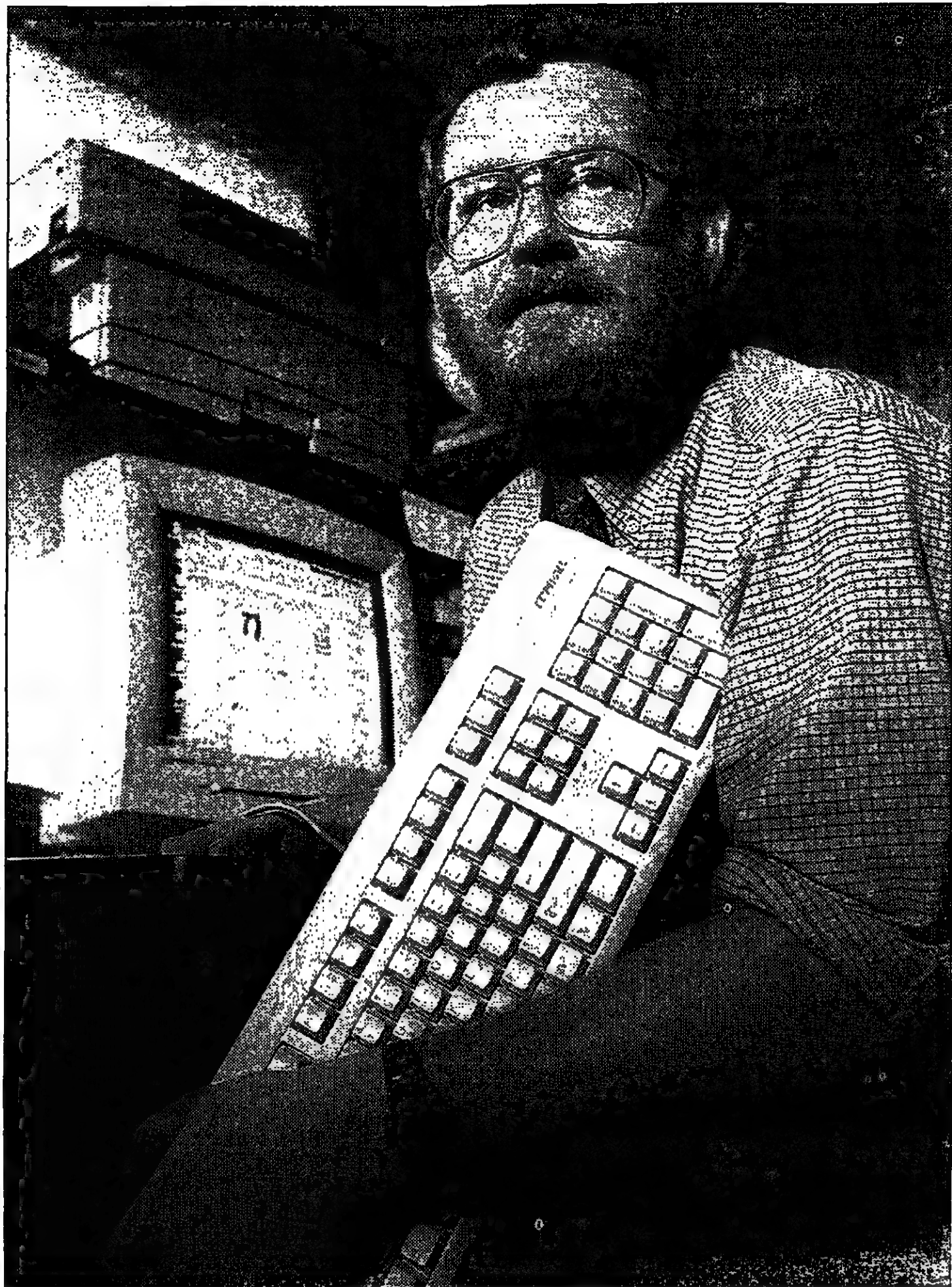
Nonetheless, said the Rev. George Van Alstine, a school board member, "some of the questions that he's raised have been questions that have been important for us to address. He just doesn't seem to know when to stop."

Sometimes, as those gadflies ratchet up municipal discomfort by winning a wider audience online, City Hall strikes back.

In Stamford, a school district has gone to court to stop the parents of a boy beaten outside a high school from posting the legal depositions of administrators online. The parents had sued the district over the attack.

In Colton, the Rev. Steve Anderson railed at the city council for years and even led successful recalls of council members. But he said it wasn't until he went online last May that there were repercussions — a city trash contractor sued Anderson for defamation.

The claim was ultimately dismissed by a judge, but not before Anderson's congregation dwindled from 200 to 30 members as his reputation was battered and he flamed with financial ruin.



Rene Amy, armed with his keyboard, his 'investigative nature' and his pit bull's tendency never to let go. (Los Angeles Times)

points out that it is mainly affluent residents or regions that take advantage of online democracy.

"Politics is already skewed toward the educated and the active," Barber said. "[The

Internet] skews politics even more in that direction." (Los Angeles Times)

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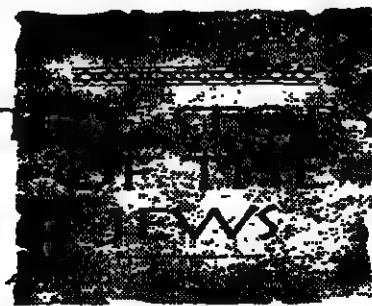
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Soccer to me!

At first I didn't quite understand the hysterical way the Israeli public was reacting to the Health Ministry's decision to delay the advent of the new wonder pill, Viagra. It was like we were talking about some new lifesaving drug, not a pill against impotency.

Home Front



Allison Kaplan Sommer

We're talking about having sex, folks, not about rescuing people from death's door. And the reason Viagra isn't in our pharmacies yet is to allow for an investigation into the possible link between the drug and the deaths of several men in the US.

Past experience teaches that this month promises a serious dry spell for man-woman interaction, including in the bedroom

You'd think this wise and cautious decision by the government would be applauded, not condemned. So why, I wondered, the huge public outcry and the race to the black market to obtain the diamond-shaped blue pills?

Those of us who have lived through previous World Cup seasons know that it doesn't end with simply viewing the games: The event and the testosterone-driven conversations endlessly, at the dinner table, on the street and at the workplace.

Of course, some lucky folks will not be so sorely affected: couples where the women have some interest in the World Cup goings-on, or where a few brave men, finding little attraction in the soccer competition, have the guts to admit it.

Aside from these marginal groups, past experience teaches that the upcoming month promises a serious dry spell for man-woman interaction, including in the bedroom.

Hence, anyone, male or female, who is interested in sex is looking to get it now, while there's still time. Those in need of that Viagra boost are in a desperate hurry. They know there is no time to waste.

In a few short days, a long, hot summer month of obsessive soccer viewing will be upon us. And, unfortunately, a separation far greater than that ever dictated by any *haredi* rabbi. And it's not simply phys-

ical separation, but an utter spiritual and intellectual distancing that will last far longer than the period dictated by Orthodox family purity laws.

What we are talking about is more than a full month — beginning June 10 and ending July 12 — in which a significant, even overwhelming, percentage of the male population will spend hours on end slack-jawed in front of the TV screen, watching men of various nationalities chase white balls into nets and uninterested in much else.

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Getting past the first date

Because you never get a second chance to make a first impression, a specialized service in New York prepares singles to be at their best on a first date. Tamara Ikenberg tried it out



Love me, love my shlick

Singles ads, dating services, and now, simulated dates with shrinks.

It seems American singles are willing to go to any length to hit the jackpot of love. And the methods are getting progressively sketchier.

Why have we reached this point? Dr. Drew Pinsky, of Los Angeles, co-host of the television and radio call-in program, *LoveLine*, blames the divorce explosion.

"If you don't have a model for intimacy in early childhood, you

don't have models to establish relationships."

Dr. Alvin Baraf, founder of MenCenter, Counseling in Washington, blames harassment lawsuits: "I regret that things are going in the direction that people can't be themselves."

But both say First Impressions, the simulated-date counseling service in New York, and its critics are not the answer.

"How am I going to know if it's really me that got me a second date, or that following all these rules got me a second date?"

Baraf says, "Surface things can change and they may have an effect for a while. That's good for a first impression, but it's not going to work for a whole dating period."

There is a tendency to see this as a professional problem. It's about the objectification of the human relationship, Pinsky says.

"There are so many elements that fall in the area of instant attraction. If you take all that away, you're losing something."

little drink.

I thought about my body language and figured he must be observing it. I resisted my normal urge to fold my arms in front of me and, instead, casually slung my arm around the chair beside me.

ABBA Gold was playing in the background.

Small talk. Where are you from, yada yada. It didn't take long for us to make a connection, though.

"Do you get to see the funky cartoon shows, you know, like *Dr. Katz*?" he asked.

Score! Ten consultants to choose from, and I got the one who watched *Dr. Katz*, *Professional Therapist*. I immediately burst forth with my devotion to Dr. Katz's spongy cartoon son, Ben.

"If Ben were alive, I would be so happy. I love him. I love him so much. I have pictures. I have a calendar, and I tore all the pictures out

and put them all over my apartment." Good. Continue with the "pervasive attraction to animated characters" line. Drives men crazy.

Nick seemed unfazed, though. Demaris says consultants don't expect total psycho-dates.

I felt I was dominating the conversation. We talked about my job, my history and my personal life, though that took only about 20 seconds.

Still, our "date" wasn't going badly. Granted, sparks weren't flying from his cappuccino or anything, but I felt relatively comfortable.

Spurred by the Swedish quartet in the background, we started talking about the movie *Muriel's Wedding*, in which the ABBA-worshipping homely heroine and her best friend dress in unfattering, tight-fitting shiny outfits and lip-synch to "Waterloo" in a liberating

expression of individuality and bad taste.

"What's your ABBA dream sequence? Surely you have one," I asked.

"Don't you just wanna dress up like a rock star and sing for a bunch of people?" He appeared a little taken aback.

"Um...no. Don't wanna do that. Don't wanna go bungee jumping," he said.

Maybe that was a little personal. He shifted to the less threatening topic of Telemovies. "It's psychotic," he said. "It hypnotizes little Japanese kids that watch it."

Sisters, small apartments and pseudonyms rounded out our conversation.

I didn't realize the hour was over. Nick apparently had been paying a little more attention.

"This will be the end of the simulation," he said, rather abruptly.

"The end."

"But the ABBA record's not over!" I whined seductively.

He left me with a sheet to evaluate myself while he prepared his material in the nearby First Impressions office.

I skimmed the questions.

3. Overall, how do you think you came across during the date? I think I talked too much about myself.

4. What did you say or do that makes you feel that way? I talked too much about myself.

After answering a few more similar questions, I paid for our drinks and headed to the office.

In the office on Broadway, the shrink formerly known as Nick sat behind a desk.

He looked down at what were a stack of checklists and comments and began evaluating me: I paid attention. I created a welcoming environment. I made good eye contact. I was a good conversationalist. I knew all this, but it was nice to hear from a man I'm not related to and who's not gay.

It wasn't all stroking, though. He had slight, gently delivered criticisms.

"There was a feeling that sometimes you're overly self-critical. It can be bad if it's done a lot and the other person feels they have to function as the one who says, 'You're OK, you're not that bad,'" he said.

My attire (black blazer, white blouse, black miniskirt, leopard-print tights, black leather boots) might put off more conservative people.

"It does make a statement," he said.

"And that statement is?" I asked.

"Kind of downtown, arty. It's a strong image, which is clearly you. You call yourself a Generation-Xer."

Do not, I thought.

Next, he went over first-date faux pas I managed to avoid.

I didn't appear needy. I didn't talk about marriage. I didn't talk too much.

Wait — didn't talk too much? That was a revelation! "And when I did speak, you never cut me off," he began.

I cut him off: "I thought I did." But I wasn't entirely *faux pas*-free.

I apparently put him on the spot when I asked him what his ABBA dream sequence was. Too personal.

And then came the stroches — the comments that were almost surreal in their obviousness. He said I spoke at a good volume. He said I was very present, very "there."

OK, enough about my sexy ability to be where I was while I was there. I wanted some real answers.

"Would Nick Brown have wanted to go out with me again if I was not leaving town?" I asked.

He looked shocked.

"Uh...yeah," he said surprisingly convincingly. "I think Nick Brown felt very comfortable. Yeah. Yeah. Definitely."

I walked out feeling affirmed, but also elevated to a whole new plane of confusion. I had almost wanted to hear a bunch of criticism that may explain why I never get second dates.

If I'm so perfect, what's my problem? What's anyone's problem? Dating isn't a science. It's random, raucous and sometimes as painful as watching a double feature of *The Postman*. Trying to prepare for it can be as futile as using an SAT study guide written in Yiddish.

However, if a date with a shrink sounds like the way to make you a master of your dating domain, go forth and spend.

Interpersonal placebo or not, if First Impressions can offer its clients confidence and heightened self-awareness, it may be worth it.

(The Baltimore Sun)

Grapevine will return on Friday

The power to set your own limits

Dear Ruthie,

For 10 years my wife's sister was in an abusive relationship with her live-in boyfriend. Finally, with much coaxing and a lot of support from us and other family members and friends, she has left home.

We offered her refuge with us, and I even insisted upon it. However, I am beginning to regret it.

She has been with us for at least three months now, making no effort to find work or an apartment (which she keeps promising she is doing). She keeps my wife up at all hours of the night discussing her problems; then she sleeps all day, while my wife (her sister) goes to work and then comes home to take care of our three-year-old daughter.

This is disrupting our lives greatly, and, frankly, I am fed up. I also do not approve of the effect all this is having on our daughter.

My wife, I suspect, feels the same way, though she does not admit to it because she wants to help her sister as much as she can — even at the expense of her own well-being.

How can I bring the subject up with my wife (or sister-in-law, for that matter) without seeming like a heartless person? Can I

in good conscience kick this woman out of my house when she has had such a rough life already? At this point she has no money — or even prospects, as far as I can tell. And even her parents are not willing to help her, since they feel that she ignored them when they insisted she stay away from her boyfriend, with whom she had been involved since the age of 15.

On the one hand, I feel I deserve my life back. On the other, I think it is one's duty to help family when they're in trouble. Also, I can't help worrying that if my sister-in-law leaves, she will go straight back to that horrible man. What should I do?

Bothered Brother-in-Law
Somewhere in Israel

Dear Bothered Brother-in-Law,

No one has the power to disrupt your life but you. Others — in this case, your sister-in-law — only serve as vessels through which you "abdicate" power over yourself. Let us interpret this to mean that you should never sacrifice comfort for others willingly,

let me set the record straight.

Making a conscious decision to come to the aid of family or friends, including when doing so puts a strain on some area of your life, is as legitimate emotionally as it is noble.

But it requires two preconditions.

The first is that the decision be based on a genuine desire to forfeit temporary self-interest for the good of someone else. The second is that it be accompanied by internal limits on your part.

What strikes me from your letter is that neither of these preconditions was fully met before you insisted on having your sister-in-law move in with you and your wife.

Not wanting to seem "heartless" may have been the driving force behind your decision. As a result, you were unable to impose limits on yourself. After all, are you ever willing to be perceived as heartless?

It is thus that you find yourself feeling used. It is thus that you are keeping track of

whether your sister-in-law is looking for work, or just taking advantage of your wife's time and energy.

But counting your sister-in-law's "crimes" is as unnecessary as it is pointless. If fear of being considered heartless is preventing you from making certain demands, then it is unlikely that anything she does will assuage that fear.

What you need to focus on is your own legitimacy. Only then will you be able to come up with an alternative solution, which might include "hiring" your sister-in-law to do housework, babysit, etc. — perhaps to prepare her for other work.

Keep in mind that the current arrangement cannot be beneficial to your sister-in-law in the long run. It is likely that she is in need of professional — not just familial — assistance. Clearly you too believe this if you think that as soon as she leaves your home she is bound to go back to a man who abused her for 10 years.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, Jerusalem 91000. For E-mail: ruthie@post.co.il ("Dear Ruthie" also appears in *In Jerusalem* and in *City Lights on Fridays*.)



Ruthie Blum

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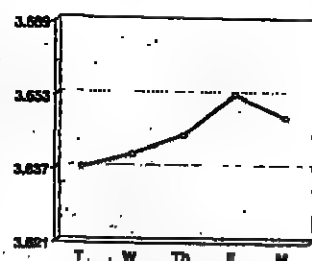
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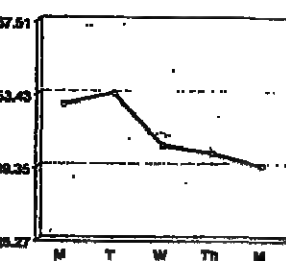
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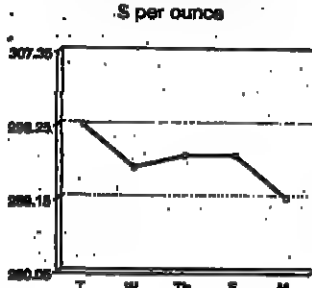
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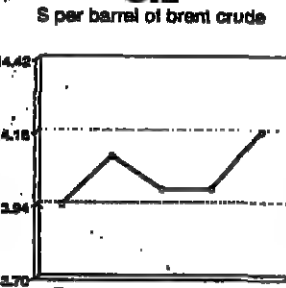
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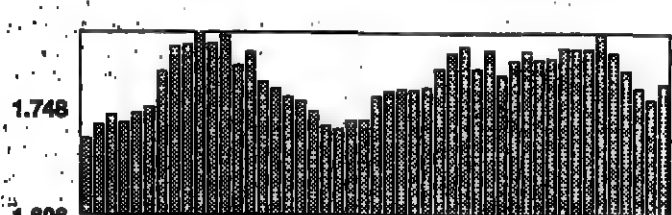
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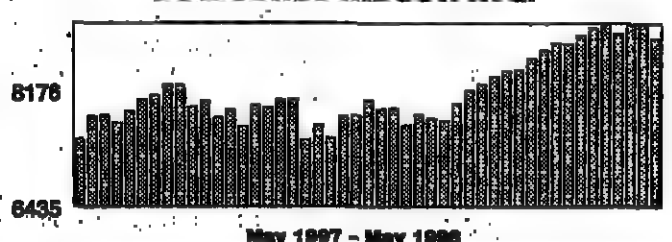
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Gov't posts NIS 50m. May deficit

The government registered a NIS 50 million budget deficit excluding granted net credit in May, the Treasury said yesterday. During the course of the first five months, the state's budget deficit totaled NIS 602m., also excluding granted net credit. These figures keep the deficit in line with the government's 1998 target of no more than 2.4 percent of the gross domestic product, or NIS 8.5 billion. Last year, the government set its target at 2.8% and by December had cut the deficit to 2.4%. Much of this success is due to two factors: a series of cuts in government expenditure and, because of the ongoing slowdown, reduced spending by ministries and other publicly funded bodies. Meanwhile, the Bank of Israel announced yesterday that foreign currency reserves stood at \$21.532b. at the end of May, a \$306m. decline from the April 30 figure.

David Harris

IDB Holdings' profits up 25%

IDB Holdings' net income reached NIS 60 million in the first quarter, a 25% increase on the figure for the same period last year. Total company assets reached NIS 10.1 billion at the end of the first quarter, NIS 600m. higher than at the equivalent point in 1997.

David Harris

Hatchhof in \$3m. deal with Turkish military

Hatchhof, the Upper Nazareth-based manufacturer of tankers and refuelers, announced that it has recently sold 35 refueling trucks to the Turkish military, in a deal worth some \$3 million. The fuel trucks are to service combat planes and helicopters. The company said it expects to sell another 65 such vehicles to the Turkish military in the next two years.

Nina Gilbert

49% of El Al to be sold on TASE

By DAVID HARRIS

The Ministerial Committee on Privatization yesterday approved the sale of 49 percent of El Al on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, according to a statement from the Prime Minister's Office. While no date has yet been fixed for the sale, Transport Ministry spokesman Avner Ovadia said most of those involved say it will take place within a year.

The decision means that for the time being the company will not

fly on Shabbat or festivals, in accordance with a legal opinion written last year by Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein.

During the meeting last night, Transport Minister Shaul Yahalom insisted workers' rights not be affected and that compensation be paid in full to any employees who lose their jobs due to privatization. After the discussion he said he was very satisfied. "On the one hand this privatizes the company and increases state revenues, while on the other hand this

ensures El Al remains a national company with 51% (remaining) in government hands. This is important not only from the perspective of Shabbat observance, but also for reasons of security and during times of emergency."

The actual date of the flotation will be fixed by the Government Companies Authority under the directorship of Tzipi Livni.

"Let's not worry yet about the remaining shares and whether we're going to sell them, let's just be happy with this decision," said

Livni. "It's a very important step which we must now implement."

Before she can turn to the house, Livni must first seek approval for the move from the cabinet and the Knesset Finance Committee.

The decision comes just days after El Al announced it lost \$4.2 million in 1997, compared to its 1996 loss of \$83.1m. Company executives maintain that some \$50m. is lost every year because aircraft do not fly seven days a week.

Asheri quits as Discount Bank's CEO

By DAVID HARRIS

Israel Discount Bank CEO Avraham Asheri yesterday announced his resignation during a meeting of the board of directors.

In a brief statement, Ruth Moskovitz, the bank secretary, explained that the board agreed to accept Asheri's resignation.

"The chairman of the board and its members expressed their confidence in and appreciation of the outstanding contribution by Mr. Asheri during his 15 years at the bank, during six of which he acted as managing director."

The statement added that on several previous occasions, Asheri had agreed to remain in the post after tendering his resignation.

Asheri will remain on the job until a replacement has been found and has agreed to fill other roles within the bank's group.

There had been mounting speculation in recent days about Asheri's future with the bank. Among the suggestions in the media, all denied by the bank's spokesmen, were rumors that Asheri would be the "fall guy," allowing the directors to remain in place despite the bank's recent poor performance.

It was also mooted that Arie Mientkavich, the bank's relatively new chairman, wanted to replace Asheri with a confidante.

Last week, the bank announced a 49.7 percent drop in profits in the first quarter to NIS 33.032 million from the same period last year. This drop followed a 20.6% reduction in net income in 1997 to NIS 199.9m.

The bank has been beset by several problems in recent months, including an ongoing dispute with workers over pay and the move to a five-day work week. Analysts have expressed concern about the bank's mounting bad loans, particularly to the construction industry.

Poalim Inv. buys 2% of Bezeq for NIS 180m.

By JOSHUA MITNICK

Poalim Investments said it bought two percent of Bezeq on Thursday for NIS 180 million from Merrill Lynch.

The investment company, which has holdings in telecommunications equipment, finance and real estate companies, said it purchased 15 million shares at NIS 12 per share from the US-based securities firm.

The purchase came on the same day as the UK telephone service company, Cable & Wireless, boosted its Bezeq stake to 12.75% by buying \$63m. in shares from Merrill Lynch for the same price.

Cable, which previously held 10.2% of Bezeq, has permission from the Israeli government to increase its Bezeq holdings after a minimum of 18 months.

"It is reasonable to assume that a foreign strategic investor will be interested in the stake" purchased by Poalim, said Boaz Leviatan, an

analyst at Sahar Securities. "It isn't clear whether [Poalim] intends to compete for a controlling stake" in Bezeq or intends to resell the holding, he said.

A spokesman from Poalim Investments was unavailable for comment.

The government, which owns some 54% of Bezeq, is expected to review a plan to sell more shares in the telephone company that would cut the government's stake to under 40%.

Merrill Lynch bought 12.4% of Bezeq last year from the government at about NIS 9.83 a share. Leviatan said the share price is still relatively inexpensive compared with Bezeq's international peers.

Bezeq shares dropped 0.6% to NIS 11.65. The company said first-quarter earnings dropped 13% after international phone rates tumbled because of competition and call volume didn't increase quickly enough to offset the drop. (Bloomberg)

American Home Products to buy Monsanto for \$34 billion

By KERRY DOOLEY, TONI CLARKE and DANE HAMILTON

St. Louis-based American Home Products Corp. said it will acquire Monsanto Co. for \$34.4 billion in stock, creating one of the world's largest makers of pharmaceuticals, seeds and herbicides.

Under the agreement, each Monsanto share will be traded for 1.15 share in American Home. The offer is worth \$55.56b., based on American Home's Friday close of 48 5/16, offering virtually no premium to Monsanto's Friday close of 55 3/8.

Monsanto, which spun off its chemicals business last year to focus on genetically engineered crops and agricultural products, agreed three weeks ago to buy DeKalb Genetics Corp. and Delta & Pine Land Co. for \$4.1b. The acquisition by American Home adds Monsanto's arthritis drugs, including at least one potential blockbuster, to American Home's

painkiller Advil, and the hormone replacement therapy Premarin.

"This is a blockbuster deal, but why is Monsanto not getting more value," said Sano Shimoda, president of BioScience Securities.

Adding St. Louis-based Monsanto to American Home could decrease American Home's earnings by up to 15 percent in the first year after the transaction is completed. It will decrease them by a lesser amount in 2000 and then add to earnings, the company said. The companies said they expect savings of as much as \$1.5b. within three years of the closing.

After the transaction, which is expected to be completed by the end of this year, American Home will have annual sales of about \$23b. and a market capitalization of more than \$96b. with interests in pharmaceuticals, biotechnology and agriculture. The company will have a new name, not yet specified.

The union of the two companies came after American Home and SmithKline Beecham broke off

merger talks in January that would have created the world's biggest pharmaceuticals firm. Monsanto's biggest potential drug is a new kind of painkiller that works without irritating the stomach.

Monsanto earlier this year entered an agreement with rival drugmaker Pfizer Inc., the maker of the impotence pill Viagra, to sell the new painkiller. Monsanto is expected to file this year with US regulators for approval of the drug.

"Our new company is designed to be successful in the face of continuing consolidation and increasing worldwide competition in life sciences," said Monsanto chairman and CEO Robert Shapiro, who with American Home's president and CEO John Stafford will be co-chairman and co-chief executives.

American Home shareholders will own 65% of the combined companies, and Monsanto holders, 35%. According to Monsanto's first-quarter earnings statement, it has 619.4 million shares and shares equivalent outstanding.

Israel, Jordan to set up \$280 million industrial park

By Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies

Israel and Jordan have agreed to establish a \$280 million industrial park on both sides of the Jordan River, the National Infrastructure Ministry announced yesterday.

Details of the park were finalized over the weekend during a meeting between National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon and Jordanian Water and Irrigation Minister Munther Haddadin, who is responsible for joint projects with Israel.

The park, to be located alongside the Sheikh Hussein bridge, is one of a number of plans currently under discussion, with others including a canal between the Dead and Red seas and a train line from the Dead Sea to the Gulf of Eilat.

The park, which will be a free-trade zone, will be developed by a cross-border firm - Jordan Gateway Project Co.

"We will start development as soon as possible and begin to operate the first phase at the end of 1999 or in 2000," said Avraham Adamov, one of three partners in Israel's Middle East

Projects, Middle East Projects and Jordan's Amman Resources each control 50 percent of Jordan Gateway.

The 2,500-dunam park has already been recognized by the US as a free-trade area and will principally offer trade, warehousing, and transport services from Jordan to Haifa port and back.

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with the participation of

Prof. Yaakov Neeman, Minister of Finance
Prof. Jacob Frenkel, Governor of the Bank of Israel
Prof. Eytan Sheshinski, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Moderator: Mr. Harvey Krueger,
Vice-Chairman, Lehman Brothers, N.Y.,
and Honorary Chairman, the Hebrew University Board of Governors

The symposium will be conducted in English

Tuesday, June 9, 1998, 11a.m.,
Wise Auditorium, Givat Ram campus

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THE CONFERENCE CIRCUIT

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

2.6 Bankers, hoteliers, building contractors, merchants, farmers and representatives of the diamond industry are expected to attend today's protest conference at the Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv, organized by 15 organizations and institutions dedicated to the promotion of trade and commerce. The purpose of the conference is to focus government attention on rising unemployment. Speakers will include Dan Propper, president of the Israel Manufacturers Association; Dan Gilleman, president of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce; Uri Dory, president of the Building Contractors Association; Emanuel Sharon, president of the Bankers' Association; and Michael Federman, president of the Israel Hotels Association.

2.6 Sixteen Israeli companies are participating in the five-day Eurostar exhibit in Paris, which is dedicated to defense equipment and protective gear for ground forces.

3.6 The senior management forum, sponsored by the Israel Management Center, will meet at the Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv.

3.6 Strategic Data Gathering, with a View to Conquering the Market is the intriguing title of an MIT Forum conference, which will take place in the Leon Hall of the Recanati Building at Tel Aviv University. The conference will be opened by Prof. Eitan Miller, the head of the Center for Initiative.

6.6 The 26th meeting of the Board of Governors of Haifa University will open with a photographic exhibition entitled Local Memory, featuring photographs of Haifa from 1912 to 1949. In the course of the five-day conference, the university will inaugurate the renovated offices of the Institute for Information Processing and Decision-Making.

7.6 Tel Aviv University, Jerusalem, the Open University and Israel Africa Friendship Association are joining forces for a two-day conference to examine Israel-Africa Relations Over the Past 50 Years. The first day of the conference will be held in the Gilman Building of Tel Aviv University and the second day at Belgium House on the Givat Ram campus of the Hebrew University.

7.6 The 12th Conference of Beams '98 will be held at the Haifa International Congress Center and will focus on beaming information technology.

nology. This is the first time that a Beams conference is being hosted in Israel. Some 250 scientists and engineers from around the world are expected to participate.

8.6 Tel Aviv University, in conjunction with the French Embassy and the French Institute of Tel Aviv, is hosting an international symposium on A Peace Process that Succeeded: The Lessons of New Caledonia. Speakers include Michel Rocard, former prime minister of France; Rene Samuel Sirat, former chief rabbi of France; Jacques Stewart, former president of the Protestant Federation of France; MKs Shlomo Ben-Ami and Yehuda Lancy, who are both former ambassadors; and Ahmed Tibi, political advisor to the chairman of the Palestinian Authority.

8.6 The Israel Management Center will host a study evening at the Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv, on preventing discrimination in the work place.

10.6 Finance Minister Yaaqov Neeman and business tycoon Charles Bronfman will be among the speakers discussing the many issues in the relationship between Israel and the Diaspora at the two-day conference marking the 20th anniversary of Beit Hatesutsoth.

11.6 The Decision Makers' Club, under the Auspices of the Israel Management Center, will meet at the Dan Panorama Hotel, Haifa.

15.6 People who spend long hours working at a computer often suffer from a variety of ailments, some of which are avoidable. The secrets to the correct, healthy and safe way of working with computers will be discussed at an Israel Management Center workshop at the Kfar Hamaccabiah Hotel in Ramat Gan.

15.6 Industrialists from all over the country will gather at the Jerusalem International Convention Center for the conferring of the Industry Prize. This year's ceremony will be the largest and most festive ever. Industrial aspects of the state's jubilee celebrations will be incorporated into the event. Government ministers, members of Knesset and the president, will be in attendance. Representatives from the 130 companies that have been recipients of the prize since it was first inaugurated in 1974, as well as past presidents of the Israel Manufacturers Association, will also participate.

Ready for takeoff

Japan is struggling with the stratospheric costs of getting its space program off the ground

By ELAINE LEE

Japan's space industry is attempting to launch itself into a harsh new era, abandoning old dreams of conquering the stars in the face of crass demands it turn a profit.

But high costs, tough international competition, and the increasing reluctance of the government to cough up money as budgets are slashed may make it hard to get off the ground.

"In the old days, people could get by on dreams, like trying to put people on the moon," lamented Mitsunori Miyasato, a spokesman for the National Space Development Agency of Japan (NASDA). Japan's semi-governmental space agency, "it was better then. Now they want us to make a profit."

The biggest problem for Japan's space program is without question its stratospheric price tag. The country's Management and Coordination Agency released a report in April showing that NASDA's J-1 rocket development project and the M-1 rocket project sponsored by the Institute of Space and Astronautical Science each cost more than similar projects in other countries.

Both organizations also lacked budget-control strategies and goals, the report said, recommending that the J-1 project - to develop rockets for low-level orbits of smaller satellites - be cut unless costs are brought down.

Even more serious is that each launch of Japan's flagship H-2 rocket to place a satellite into geostationary orbit costs close to 19 billion yen (\$139 million) - about double the cost of competitors such as the European Space Agency's Ariane rocket.

"Quite simply, it doesn't sell," said Hiroshi Imamura, vice president of Rocket System Corporation, a consortium of 73 companies that is Japan's only commercial launch provider.

"Japan wants to make all the parts itself, but it can't produce in quantity, and everything gets expensive," he added.

This sets off a vicious circle by jacking up the prices of completed rockets, thereby scaring off prospective customers and even further reducing the number of possible launches.

NASDA is currently working to develop a newer and cheaper version of the H-2 called the H-2A. Tentatively scheduled for a maiden flight in 2001, the H-2A is aiming for a price of around 8 billion yen per launch - and all-Japanese components.

But Imamura said this plan was likely to be scrapped in favor of searching out the cheapest possible components regardless of

their origin, although he declined to estimate how much of the H-2A might eventually be foreign-made.

Another reason for high prices is that Japan supports two separate rocket development programs.

In fact, responsibility for the space program is split between no fewer than five different government ministries.

THE MOST active players at this stage are the Science and Technology Agency, which is much of the power behind NASDA, and the Education Ministry, which backs the Institute of Space and Astronautical Sciences (ISAS), home of the M-5 rocket program. But the Post and Telecommunications Ministry, Transport Ministry, and the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) all play a part as well.

One part of the government's April report advocated consolidation, especially merging NASDA and ISAS. "They are divided because what they cover

is different, but now people feel it would be more efficient to combine them," a government official said, noting NASDA has been focused on technology while ISAS research is more academic.

A government reform plan has been mooted in which the Science and Education Ministries will be merged and the space programs combined. Others, especially the rocket industry, would prefer control be given to MITI in an effort to increase the program's commercial viability. But the proposals are already under attack.

"Despite the different ministries, things have worked well until now," said Yasunori Matogawa, an ISAS professor. "If you can guarantee cooperation, then the new structure will succeed. But the plan seems far too simplistic, raising doubts it will be effective," he added.

Imamura, at Rocket Systems, said that because Japan cannot market its rockets on price, it must promote them on quality. NASDA's Miyasato said: "In rockets, we're now on a par with

NASA - and we feel that if NASA invites us to take part in things like shuttle missions, that means the quality of our people is up to their standards as well."

But serious doubts were raised about this in February, when an H-2 rocket failed to properly launch a satellite, resulting in an estimated waste of more than 60 billion yen.

While this was the first H-2 failure, there have been other mishaps. In 1996, a rocket carrying an experimental plane was successfully launched but the plane lost at sea upon re-entry.

"This accident was a huge shock. That there had been no problem with the rockets had always been one of our strongest sales points," said Rocket Systems' Imamura.

Although he said the company had not lost any business, customers did appear "more nervous than before." Miyasato at NASDA said the agency had thoroughly investigated the accident, which was a fluke, but others blamed human error. "This was definitely avoidable," a

source said.

And more accidents could lie ahead, said Tadahiko Abe, senior economist at the LTCB Research Institute in Tokyo.

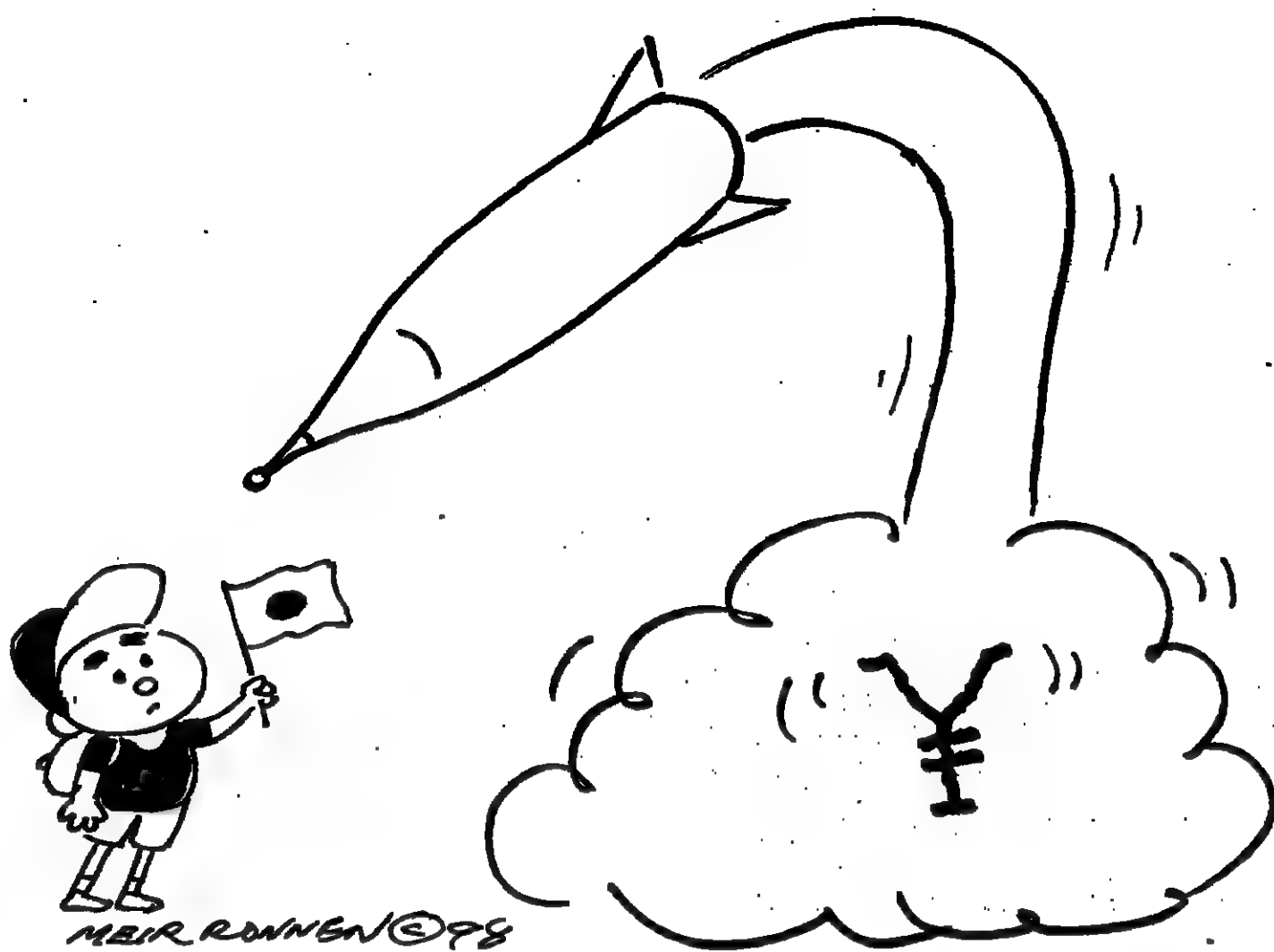
"Not only is there a lack of experience throughout the industry, there is talk that the skills of the technicians who actually make the parts is going down," he added. "Plus, the push to make things cheaper virtually invites the use of lower-quality materials."

Given this, plus the uniquely Japanese view that launches are possible only about half the year due to an agreement with fishermen near the Tanegashima launch site in remote southern Japan, should Japan still continue its space program? Absolutely, said Matogawa.

"Communications, satellites in particular are essential to our lives, and Japan should be able to launch its own."

"But this isn't all. Japanese children still have dreams of space, and it's important to keep these alive. Dreams are so few these days as it is," he added.

(Reuters)



Tiny Iranian island becomes shoppers' haven

By APHIN MOLAVI

KISH ISLAND, Iran - Long-time residents of this tiny Gulf coral island off Iran's southern coast still recall the Concorde, the casino and Christian Dior.

All three were regular features of this picturesque island in the 1970s when the late Shah of Iran transformed it into an elite playground for Iran's rich and mighty.

But Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution changed all that. The casino - a symbol of Western decadence and banned under Islamic law - is now a video arcade for children. A Concorde would be unthinkable these days at the decrepit airport, more familiar with aging Russian-built aircraft flown by Kish Air.

Christian Dior, however, is making a spirited comeback.

Hundreds of designer-label perfumes, watches and garments battle for shop space with televisions, blenders, and T-shirts in the island's sleek, neon-lit shopping malls.

Offering low customs duties and

visa-free access as one of Iran's three free-trade zones, officials are hoping to capture a slice of the lucrative Middle East "shopping tourism" pie, currently dominated by Dubai in the United Arab Emirates.

Officials estimate that Iranian visitors purchased \$900 million in goods from Dubai in the year to March.

"There are so many Iranians who travel to Dubai for shopping. Why can't they do it here?" said Shahzad Mirzaei, an official with the Kish Free Zone Organization.

The hotels are less expensive, the goods are about the same cost and much-needed hard currency stays at home, he said.

Kish is coming on strong, selling \$125m. in goods to Iranians last year and attracting 800,000 mainland visitors to its shopping malls, hotels and beaches.

The mainland's strict Islamic legal codes are present, but most Iranians find the island to be less restrictive socially.

Consumer goods can be imported into the island at lower customs

duties than mainland Iran.

With a population of more than 60 million just 19 km away in mainland Iran, the island is well-placed to cash in on the growing "shopping tourism" market among Iranians.

The debilitating inflation of the mainland has also sent many an Iranian to Kish for cheap goods.

Maryam Shafiei, a university student from Tehran, is one of the hordes of shoppers sent to the island by mainland merchants on paid shopping trips.

"Every Iranian citizen is allowed to bring up to \$165 worth of goods from Kish each year, so many Tehran merchants send hundreds of people to the island for a shopping trip to buy goods on their behalf," an official explained. They get a free trip, a chance to go to the beach and the merchant gets low-cost goods, sold at higher prices back home, Shafiei said.

More expensive goods like designer watches or jewelry are worn on the body or not declared upon return, shoppers said.

These shoppers are critical to the island's economy, netting it about \$10m. a year in the form of a \$20 "Kish card" giving the shopper a right to purchase.

The island's annual income of about \$60m., mainly in customs and port service revenues, is reinjected back into the island to restore heritage sites, build roads, finance the 500-student Kish University, improve infrastructure and create tourist attractions.

WITH NO help from the central government, this little island of 12,000 people is full of ideas, but limited in resources.

International investment has been slow in coming, prompting criticism from the Iranian media which say the goal of the free trade zones should be export creation, not shopping malls.

"We cannot build an industrial export base overnight," explained Mohammad Yazdanpanah, the head of the Kish Free Zone Organization. "These things take time, and we are now using the shopping revenues to finance ser-

vice projects that would attract foreign investors."

New laws allowing foreign banks to set up branches in Iran's three free-trade zones are expected to boost export-related investment, Yazdanpanah told Reuters.

The French oil company Total is setting up a logistics center on the island to support its \$2 billion Iran offshore gas development project undertaken with Russia's Gazprom and Malaysia's Petronas.

A factory to produce cars with Renault engines is expected to go onstream next year, and Sony has a production line for television exports into the mainland.

An Iranian hotel tycoon with extensive properties in Spain's Canary Islands offers hope in the form of a reported \$70m. hotel and amusement park project under way.

"If the hotel works out well, others will come pouring in to follow," predicted one official.

In the meantime, the cash registers will ring to the tune of shoppers, looking for a bargain.

(Reuters)

Washington: Expand Russia's IMF aid

By ROBERT A. ROSENBLATT

WASHINGTON - President Clinton said Sunday that the United States will support Russia's efforts to get additional financial aid from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to deal with its economic crisis, which has sent stocks in Moscow plunging and interest rates soaring.

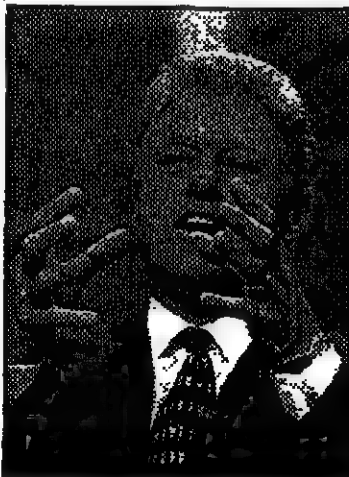
The US "endorses additional conditional financial support from the international financial institutions, as necessary, to promote stability, structural reforms and growth in Russia," the president said in a statement issued at the White House.

No specific sums of money were mentioned, but Clinton's comment makes it clear that the administration strongly favors a generous reaction by the World Bank and the IMF to Russia's appeals for financial help.

The administration seems to hope that a strong commitment of US support for the Russian economy will bolster the confidence of private investors that they will keep their money in Russia - making it unnecessary for the United States to deliver on that commitment.

Russia is suffering from multiple economic problems, including low tax revenues, high government debt, a decline in oil prices that has cut into revenues from export sales and a spillover from the financial crisis in Asia. Stock prices dropped sharply last week, and the government raised interest rates to a staggering 15 percent to try to protect the ruble against a devaluation.

The administration believes monetary help for Russia should come from international organizations rather than as direct financial aid from the US, offi-



Clinton: The US "endorses conditional financial support from the international financial institutions to promote stability in Russia." (AP)

cials indicated.

"We're committed to working with the international financial institutions to provide conditional financial support as necessary, and we are in active dialogue," a senior administration official said Sunday. "It's too early to know amounts or precise methods, which will depend very much on how the situation evolves."

The IMF already is considering a proposal to give Russia a \$700 million installment on a loan of approximately \$10.2 billion.

In order to stabilize its economy and balance the budget, the Russian government has promised to increase efforts to cut government spending and raise tax revenues. The government has had problems collecting taxes owed by the large number of enterprises, once government-owned, that became private businesses after the collapse of Communism.

(AP)

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TASE falls on Asian growth concern

Tel Aviv

Stocks declined yesterday, following a fall in US stocks at the end of last week, on concern that economic turmoil in Asia could dampen growth in the US and Israel.

Nice Systems Ltd., a maker of voice and fax equipment, which also has American depository receipts, dropped 3.6 percent to NIS 133.5.

The fall pulled the Maof Index of 25 largest companies down 0.72% to 339.35.

On Friday the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell for a fifth time in six days, dropping 0.8%, amid concern that Asia's political and economic woes could hurt US corporate profits.

Mostly it has to do with Wall Street. If the American economy isn't hurt by the economic problems in East Asia it shouldn't be a problem for anyone else," said Eli Nahum, head trader at Zannex Securities.

Conversely, lower growth among US companies will probably mean slower growth for other countries, he said.

Israel Discount Bank Ltd., the country's third-largest bank, lost 2.5% to NIS 4.37 after it said Chief Executive Avraham Asheri resigned. It did not give a reason.

Bezeq Ltd., the state-run telephone company gained 0.2%.

Europe

UK stocks fell, undermined by concern slowing Asian economies

means UK companies won't be able to sell goods or services in the region.

Hong Kong's benchmark index slumped to a five-month low, shedding 3.61 percent as investors fretted the region may slump into recession. Losses in the UK stock market, however, were pared as rising bonds offset an earlier setback.

The benchmark FTSE 100 index fell 32.8 points to 5837.9, having fallen as low as 5777.7 earlier in the session. HSBC Holdings Plc., the parent of Hongkong Bank, led the decline, falling 3.4% and wiping nearly 8 points from the total.

Standard Chartered Plc., Unilever Plc. and other companies that depend on Asia for profit also fell.

"Managers should really be going through their UK portfolios and weeding out anything that's got Asian exposure or commodity exposure," said Guy Monson, a director at Sarasin Investment Management who manages about \$1 billion. "I would be careful of the commodities" companies, he said.

The Asian slide has hurt copper and other commodities on concern the slowdown will hurt demand for materials. Mining companies such as Rio Tinto Plc. and Billiton Plc. fell.

Oil companies fell as crude oil prices declined on perceptions a delay to Iraqi oil exports under a United Nations agreement won't help alleviate a global supply glut, traders said.

Shell Transport & Trading Co. slid 8p to 444.5 and British

STOCKS

Maof 339.35 ▼ 0.72%
Dow Jones 8922 ▲ 0.25%
FTSE 5837.9 ▼ 0.46%
Nikkei 15321.03 ▼ 2.23%

Petroleum Plc. lost 11p to 888.
Lloyds TSB Group Plc. slumped 14.5p to 875 after the Sunday Telegraph Market

Miscellaneous column recommended investors sell shares in the bank. The newspaper said investors should be wary of economic slowdown, intensifying industry competition and a possible mortgage-market war. Britain's largest mortgage lender, Halifax Plc., fell 29p to 895.

Asia

Japan's benchmark stock index fell in its biggest one-day drop in three weeks, led by electronics makers such as Hitachi Ltd. following the decline in US markets. "When US stocks fall, it's a real psychological blow to Japan," said Norio Suzuki, investment manager at Indocam Japan Ltd., which handles 940 billion yen (\$6.7 bil-

Wall Street

NEW YORK (AP) - Blue-chip stocks edged higher yesterday, but technology shares took another drubbing as the delay of new Intel chip compounded worries about the impact of a weak Asian economy on computer industry profits.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 22.42 points - or 0.25% - to 8,922.37 after retreating from an 81-point advance to within 20 points of 9,000.

The technology-laden Nasdaq composite plunged nearly 2% as the recent exodus from big computer-related names picked up steam.

Intel's shares tumbled nearly 5% following late Friday's announcement that the chipmaker is delaying by at least six months a powerful new semiconductor that's integral to the plans of many computer companies. Dell Computer, Microsoft and Applied Materials also fell sharply.

The Nasdaq composite, plagued by renewed concerns about the technology group's heavy exposure to Asian markets, has now tumbled nearly 9%, since setting a closing record of 1,917.61 on April 22.

The Standard and Poor's 500 rose 0.16 to 1,090.98, and the Nasdaq composite fell 32.06 to 1,746.81.

NYSE volume totaled 536.57 million shares as of 4 p.m., vs. 552.78 million in the previous session. The NYSE composite index fell 0.14 to 565.14, and the American Stock Exchange composite index fell 7.09 to 707.51.

Dollar hits 7-year high against yen

New York (Bloomberg) - The dollar rose to a seven-year high against the yen after Japanese stocks suffered their biggest drop in three weeks and the yield on Japan's benchmark government bond fell to a record low.

Falling stock markets across Asia also hurt the yen and heightened concern the region's financial malaise will make it harder for Japan to pull out of a seven-year economic slump.

"I don't see why anyone in their right mind would want to own the yen for its own sake," said Helena Morrissey, director of fixed-income and foreign exchange at Newton Investment Management in London, which oversees £12 billion.

"There's a complete lack of confidence in Japan and a growing

sense the country is running out of options other than a weaker yen."

The dollar rose as high as 139.72 yen, its strongest since reaching 140 yen on July 4, 1991. Against the mark, the dollar fell to 178.03 marks from 178.66 after a report from the National Association of Purchasing Management showed US manufacturing orders, production and related activity grew less than expected last month.

The NAPM's manufacturing index dropped to 51.4 in May from April, a bigger decline than the drop to 52.5 analysts forecast. The report supported expectations that the economy is slowing, making it less likely the Federal Reserve will raise interest rates.

The mark also got a lift after US President Bill Clinton said the US will support additional international

CURRENCIES

Dollar 3.648 ▼ 0.21%
Pound 1.5336 ▼ 0.002%
Mark 2.8511 ▲ 0.19%
Sterling 2.8555 ▲ 0.32%

financial assistance to Russia if the country is unable to meet its short-term debts. Germany is the biggest lender to Russia, so that's good news for the mark.

"If the US is going to help Russia, then the dollar loses some of its safe-haven status," said Lee Ferridge, chief currency strategist at Commerzbank.

The mark fell to a one-month low of 179.08 to the dollar on Friday after Moody's Investors Service Inc. cut Russia's foreign currency credit ratings to "B1," four steps below investment-grade.

So far this year, the dollar has gained 7 percent against the yen and lost 1% against the mark. The dollar's gains versus the yen yesterday came as Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 stock index fell 2.23% to 15,321.03.

Global investors selling Japanese equities often convert the yen proceeds into home currencies.

The yield on Japan's No. 182

government bond, maturing in September 2005, plunged to a record low 1.165% following news Friday that Japan's jobless rate rose to a post-World War II high of 4.1% in April.

The yen also was hurt by falling stock markets in Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore and Hong Kong. That fanned concern that the region's financial woes may sap demand for Japanese exports and make it harder for companies to pay back loans to Japan's beleaguered banks.

"Asian stock markets are down again. It's an ugly spiral downward," said Earl Johnson, international economist at Bank of Montreal in Chicago. "We could see the dollar go to 150 yen in the next couple weeks, the way it's going now."

Gold, palladium prices fall

Precious metals

Gold dropped to a two-and-a-half month low after India, the world's largest gold consumer, raised its tariff on gold imports in its annual budget. Details of the increase were not immediately available. The increase will raise local prices and may cut demand, traders said.

Gold for immediate delivery dropped as much as \$4.6, or 1.6 percent, to \$288.35 an ounce, its lowest price since March 18.

Palladium fell as much as 9.8% to a six-week low amid speculation Russia, the world's largest

producer, offered to begin shipping the metal again, after halting exports for the past six months.

Traders said an increase in supply last week is a sign of more to come.

Spot palladium fell as much as \$29.55 to \$272 an ounce.

Energy

Oil fell on concern additional Iraqi oil exports, allowed under a revised United Nations supervised export program, will aggravate the global glut of crude oil. On May 29, the UN approved the fourth phase of the food-for-oil deal that

COMMODITIES

Gold \$288.35 ▼ 1.7%
Crude oil \$14.16 ▲ 1.35%
CRB 219.75 ▲ 0.57%

will allow Iraq to export up to \$4.5 billion over a six-month period from June 4, up from a previous \$2.1b.

Brent crude oil for July delivery fell as much as 21 cents to \$14.16 a barrel.

Others

Coffee fell on increasing sales by African producers and sluggish demand in North America and Europe.

Coffee sales from the Ivory Coast and Uganda, Africa's largest coffee producers in 1996-97, rose recently. Ivory coast shipped 673,000 60-kilo bags in March, up from 272,000 bags a year earlier. Coffee for July delivery dropped as much

as \$42 to \$1,753 a metric ton on the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange.

Cocoa slipped after Dutch processors dropped their objections to a European plan that would allow chocolate makers to cut the amount of cocoa used in candy bars. If the EU approves the proposal, demand for cocoa beans could fall by as much as 200,000 tons, or about 7 percent of world demand. Cocoa for July delivery fell \$8 to \$1,111 a metric ton on the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange.

(Bloomberg)

US bonds gain; report suggests slowdown

NEW YORK (Bloomberg) - US bonds gained as a manufacturing report suggested the economy is losing steam, and as a rising dollar and slumping Asian markets boosted the allure of Treasury securities.

The National Association of Purchasing Management's monthly manufacturing index fell to 51.4 in May from 52.9 a month earlier. Before the report was released, analysts forecast a decline to 52.5. The group's index of prices paid, an inflation gauge, fell to 41.1 from 41.2 in April.

"Inflation pressures are dissipated," said Bob Brussa, an economist at Nikko Securities International. That's good for

bonds because inflation eats away at the value of their fixed payments.

The benchmark 30-year Treasury bond rose 10/32, or \$3.12 per \$1,000 bond, pushing its yield down 2 basis points to 5.78 percent, the lowest since January 15. The two-year note's yield fell 2 basis points to 5.50%.

To be sure, bonds gave back some gains as US stocks rose, dampening expectations investors would switch out of US equities and into Treasury securities.

For some investors, yesterday's NAPM report helped support the view that economic turmoil in Asia and Russia will slow the US economy and boost international

BONDS

US 30-year T-bill yield 5.77 ▼ 0.03

demand for Treasury securities. US bonds earlier rose as a strong dollar, slumping Japanese economy and declines in most Asian stock markets boosted the allure of Treasury debt.

"The flight to quality is the kick-

er that's moving us up," said David Jallits, who helps oversee about \$3.5 billion at Strategic Fixed-Income LP in Arlington, Virginia.

The dollar climbed to a seven-year high of 139.67 yen and the yield on Japan's benchmark bond dropped to record lows as a report showing a rise in the Japanese jobless rate provided more evidence of a weak economy in Japan.

A strengthening dollar boosts the value of dollar-denominated securities, when proceeds are converted into their home currencies. The slim 1.165% yield now offered on the benchmark No. 182 Japanese bond due in 2005 is also helping to make US bonds more

attractive, traders said.

"Investors will have to buy Treasuries," said Hiroshi Kawakami, a trader at Hyakujishi Bank Ltd. "The dollar is so strong against the yen and Japanese bonds offer too low of a yield."

Tumbling stocks in Hong Kong and elsewhere in Asia also helped give a lift to bonds, boosting the allure of Treasuries as a safe investment.

Reports last week, including the Chicago Purchasing Management Association's regional manufacturing index and the government's monthly trade figures, showed the US economy is beginning to feel the effects of a slowdown across the Pacific, investors said.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patash (foreign currency deposit rates)

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.770	4.800	5.090
Pound sterling (£100,000)	5.550	5.540	5.620
German mark (DM 200,000)	2.180	2.280	2.700
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.060	0.190	0.960
Yen (10 million yen)	-	-	-

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (1.6.98)

CHECKS AND TRANSFERS	BUY	SELL	Banknotes	BUY	SELL	Rep. Rates**
Currency basket	3.8905	3.9226	-	-	-	3.8983
U.S. dollar	3.8134	3.8717	3.55	3.73	3.8480	
German mark	2.0342	2.0671	1.88	2.10	2.0511	
Pound sterling	5.8995	5.9447	5.78	5.88	5.9555	
French franc	0.8087	0.8165	0.59	0.63	0.6116	
Japanese Yen (100)	2.5884	2.6302	2.54	2.67	2.6151	
Dutch Guilder	1.3044	1.3336	1.27	1.38	1.3185	
Swiss franc	2.4448	2.4843	2.40	2.52	2.4680	
Swedish krona	0.4630	0.4705	0.45	0.48	0.4665	
Norwegian krona	0.4814	0.4882	0.47	0.50	0.4883	
Danish krona	0.5338	0.5425	0.52	0.56	0.5384	
Finnish mark	0.5883	0.6001	0.58	0.69	0.6747	
Canadian dollar	2.4785	2.5168	2.43	2.58	2.5033	
Australian dollar	2.2254	2.2715	2.19	2.31	2.2554	
S. African rand	0.8905	0.9079	0.88	0.91	0.9022	
Belgian franc (10)	0.8259	1.0219	0.99	1.02	0.9948	
Austrian schilling (10)	2.8910	2.9377	2.87	2.92	2.9150	
Italian lire (1000)	2.2539	2.2972	2.22	2.32	2.2516	
Jordanian dinar	5.0521	5.1641	5.02	5.25	5.2186	
Egyptian pound	1.0200	1.1100	1.02	1.11	1.1309	
ECU	4.0083	4.0710	-	-	4.0409	
Irish punt	5.1880	5.2106	5.04	5.29	5.1725	
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3860	2.4337	2.35	2.47	2.4178	

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Foreign financial data courtesy of

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Pioline ends Safin's French Open run

PARIS (AP) — Marat Safin, the Russian qualifier who made a stunning run to the fourth round of the French Open, lost a tough five-setter yesterday to Cedric Pioline of France, 7-5, 4-6, 6-7 (5-7), 6-4, 6-4.

The crowd chanted wildly for Pioline throughout the match, but by the end, they were chanting as well for Safin, the world's 116th-ranked player who beat Agassi and defending champion Gustavo Kuerten here.

At only 18, Safin is a decade younger than Pioline, who was a runner-up at last year's Wimbledon. Pioline will next meet Hicham Arazi of Morocco, who also advanced yesterday.

With Venus Williams, Lindsay Davenport and Monica Seles all advancing Sunday, more US women have reached the quarterfinals than in any French Open since 1986.

They were almost joined by the other Williams sister, Serena. But she folded in the second set of a contentious match against Arantxa Sanchez Vicario after coming within two points of victory.

"I'm only 16, my first Roland Garros," Serena said after the match. "Everything is a learning experience for me." That may be the one thing Sanchez Vicario agreed with.

"I taught her a lesson," the fourth-seeded Spaniard said angrily after the match.

It was a lesson that featured glares across the net, an unusual dress change by the Spaniard, and a slam by Williams that nearly beheaded her opponent.



Defending champion Iva Majoli of Croatia celebrates after beating Spain's Conchita Martinez at Roland Garros yesterday.

Williams accused Sanchez Vicario of changing from a black outfit to a white one midway through the second set as a strategic move. Sanchez Vicario, for her part, was upset at Williams' attitude after a controversial point in the first set.

"I just think she doesn't have respect. She cannot go in with that

attitude," said Sanchez Vicario. "You know, I'm glad I beat her." So Serena will have to watch her sister in the quarters, and it should be one of the most intriguing matches of the tournament.

Venus Williams will play top-seeded Martina Hingis, another match in a rivalry quickly becoming one of the best in women's

sports. The older Williams advanced Sunday with a 6-1, 6-3 victory over Henrieta Nagyova of Slovakia in which she slammed seven aces.

Hingis was a 6-1, 6-2 winner over Anna Smashnova of Israel in a match between former French Open junior champions.

Venus Williams, the No. 8 seed,

has lost just 13 games in her four matches at the French Open. Hingis has lost 14 games.

Hingis holds a 5-2 record against Williams, but they are 2-2 this year. Sanchez Vicario will face Patty Schnyder in the quarterfinals. No. 2 Davenport and No. 6 Seles also advanced to the quarters.

Davenport will face defending champion Iva Majoli, the 10th seed, who ousted No. 7 Conchita Martinez 7-6 (7-1), 6-7 (3-7), 6-3 in a match completed yesterday.

Majoli and Martinez were level at a set apiece when darkness halted play Sunday night. Martinez jumped out to a quick 3-1 lead in the third set, then lost the last five games.

Seles will face No. 3 Jana Novotna, who defeated No. 13 Anna Kournikova 7-6 (7-2), 3-6, 6-3 in another match halted Sunday night. The match was stopped with Novotna leading 4-2 in the final set. It took Novotna just 12 minutes to finish off the match yesterday.

Play was halted Sunday night at Novotna's request, which left Kournikova in tears because she had made the same request a game earlier, but was denied.

According to international tennis rules, a match can be halted due to darkness only on an even-number game in a set.

"It was very difficult for me to play the match over two days," Kournikova said. "It was a new experience for me."

Seles, a three-time champion who never has lost before the quarterfinals in Paris, won 6-1, 6-4 over Chanda Rubin.

Champions Glamorgan suffer first defeat of season

LONDON (Reuters) — Champions Glamorgan suffered their first county championship defeat of the season when Australia's Justin Langer and Mark Ramprakash led Middlesex to victory by nine wickets at Lord's yesterday.

Needing to score 313, the highest total of the match, the home side raced to their target with 14 overs to spare.

After the early dismissal of Richard Kettleborough, Langer maintained his excellent form to share a second wicket stand of 276 with Ramprakash.

Langer finished on 153 not out, having hit 20 fours.

Ramprakash warmed up for the first Test against South Africa starting at Edgbaston on Thursday with 21 fours in an unbeaten 128.

Rain helped second placed Sussex escape defeat against Worcestershire but they lost ground on leaders Surrey who beat Kent on Sunday to go 14 points clear.

Sussex had to bat all day to save the match and openers Wasim Khan (53 not out) and Toby Peirce (51 not out) saw them through the first session unbeaten.

They were still together after 55 overs when rain ended Worcestershire's hopes of a breakthrough.

South Africa crush Gloucs by 167 runs

BRISTOL (Reuters) — South Africa warmed up for the first Test against England at Edgbaston with a crushing 167-run victory over Gloucestershire yesterday.

Gloucestershire, shot out for 134 just before tea on the final day, never recovered from Lance Klusener's double strike in the ninth over.

Gregor Macmillan hooked a bouncer to Mornantau Hayward at fine leg and Dominic Hewson was beaten for pace and trapped lbw.

Hayward removed a positive Tim Hancock for 35 with a fine leg cutter which flew off the edge to first slip and followed up with the wickets of Rob

Cunliffe, who was bowled, and Reggie Williams, caught by stand-in wicketkeeper Gerhardus Liebenberg.

Makhaya Ntini bowled Mark Alleyne via an inside edge with his first delivery and promptly had Matt Windows and James Avers taken by Liebenberg.

Number 11 Mike Smith, coming in at 86 for nine, slugged with gusto to push the total beyond 100 but his 31 not out and Jon Lewis's 23 in a stand of 48 did little to assuage local embarrassment.

Earlier, Jonty Rhodes scored his ninth first-class century as South Africa piled up 288 for four before declaring at lunch. It was only Rhodes's second

hundred for his country after making 101 not out in a Test against Sri Lanka in Colombo in 1993.

His century came from just 78 balls with 15 boundaries and two pulled sides as acting captain and batting partner Gary Kirsten sought quick runs to set up the declaration.

His 123 has almost certainly guaranteed his place at No. 6 in the Test starting on Thursday.

Kirsten, resuming on 104 not, was never troubled and had reached 131 by the time he declared after facing 252 balls and hitting 19 fours. It was the second time he had scored two centuries in a match for South Africa.

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SPORTS

in brief

Lara fined for missing match

LONDON (Reuters) — West Indies captain Brian Lara was fined £2,000 yesterday for missing Warwickshire's Sunday League match against Somerset.

Lara was due to captain Warwickshire on Sunday but arrived at the Taunton ground too late to be included in the team after a delayed return from the Caribbean. He had been there on business.

A disciplinary committee decided to fine Lara but accepted there had been mitigating circumstances.

Hall to resign as Newcastle chairman

LONDON (Reuters) — Newcastle said yesterday that Sir John Hall is to resign as chairman of the English premier league club. Hall originally stood down after the 1997-98 season but returned as chairman in March when the club was plunged into crisis after a scandal involving his son Douglas and another club director, Freddy Shepherd.

Couples wins Memorial Tournament

DUBLIN, Ohio (Reuters) — Fred Couples breezed to a four-stroke victory at Jack Nicklaus's Memorial Tournament on Sunday, shooting a 69 for a 17-under-par winning total at Muirfield Village.

Andrew Magee birdied two of the last four holes to shoot 69 and finish second at 13-under, one stroke ahead of David Duval, who also carded a final-round 69. Jim Furyk ended up alone in fourth place at 11-under after a 68.

Report: Elway to return for 16th season

DENVER (AP) — John Elway, famous for his late-game comebacks, is making a comeback of his own. Elway will return for a 16th season with the Super Bowl champion Denver Broncos.

KOA sports talk show hosts Dave Logan and Scott Hastings said on Sunday they confirmed the celebrated quarterback will play for one more year. They said Elway will announce the decision at a news conference today.

Spain beat 1-0 Greece to win under-21 title

BUCHAREST (Reuters) — Results from the European under-21 soccer finals on Sunday: Final: Spain 1, Greece 0, (halftime 0-0). Play-off for places 3-4: Norway 2, Netherlands 0, (1-0).

Davies follows Shearer but has more modest ambitions

BLACKBURN (Reuters) — Kevin Davies completed his £7.25 million move to Blackburn yesterday but said he was unconcerned about comparisons with Alan Shearer.

The 21-year-old has followed in the England captain's footsteps by leaving Southampton for Ewood Park, almost six years after Blackburn broke the British transfer record to buy Shearer from the south coast club.

But Davies, who only moved

from second division Chesterfield to the Dell in a £750,000 deal last summer, said his target was not to match Shearer — just to stay fit.

"As for following in Alan Shearer's footsteps, I don't think about it at all — although it would be nice to end up as England captain one day."

Davies has signed a lucrative seven-year contract but he claims it is his ambitious nature and not the money that tempted away from perennial strugglers Southampton.

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Gebrselassie demolishes 10,000 meters world record

HENGELO, Netherlands (AP) — Ethiopian Haile Gebrselassie smashed the men's 10,000 meter world record by over five seconds yesterday finishing in 26 minutes 22.77 seconds at the Adriaan Paulen Memorial track.

Shattered the nine-month old mark of 26:27.85 set by Kenyan Paul Tergat in Brussels on August 27 last year.

Gebrselassie ran the last nine laps of the track with only lapped runners for company after the last of the five Ethiopian pacemakers he'd brought along dropped out.

The Ethiopian clocked a half-way split time of 13:11.53 over the first five kilometers.

Gebrselassie made the most of a sunny and almost windless early evening here, and encouragement from lapped compatriot Habbie Jifar, who chased him round the final circuit.

Earlier in the meet African male athletes scored three season-best times over the middle distances.

Kenyan Wilson Boit Kipketer set a 3,000-meters time of 7:36.05, there was a Kenyan 1-2-3 in the 3000 meters steeplechase as Bernard Barmasai came home in 8:11.57 ahead of Julius Chelule and Patrick Sang.

And it was the turn of Moroccan, Hisham El Guerrouj to lead the world this year in the 1,500 meters, winning in 3:31.19.

Bulls finals-bound after 88-83 win



CHICAGO (AP) — The Chicago Bulls made it back to the Finals on Sunday night and kept alive their quest for a sixth championship by outlasting the Indiana Pacers 88-83 in a riveting Game 7 of the Eastern Conference

finals. The Bulls scored nine of the game's final 13 points and watched the Pacers fail to find ways to match them as they moved on to a date with the Utah Jazz beginning tomorrow night. Chicago will be playing for its sixth championship this decade. The game was tied 79-79 going into the final five minutes, and that's when the Bulls showed exactly how valuable five years of championship run experience can be. Reggie Miller scored on a jumper after grabbing one of Chicago's 22 offensive rebounds, and Jordan drew a double-team and fed Luc Longley for a corner jumper while the Pacers were committing three turnovers and missing a shot.

A putback by Antonio Davis made it 85-83 with 2:12 left, but Phippen came right back with a running hook shot with 1:59 left — although he missed a chance to convert a three-point play.

Mark Jackson threw away a pass on Indiana's next possession — one of 13 miscues by the Pacers. The Bulls would miss their next two shots, running the clock inside of 30 seconds as they retained possession with another offensive rebound.

Still trailing by four, Derrick McKee took the first open shot presented to the Pacers and missed a wide-open jumper.

Michael Jordan rebounded, the Pacers fouled Ron Harper and his free throw with 8.9 seconds left completed the scoring.

Jordan, who struggled mightily with his shooting accuracy at times, still finished with 28 points, nine rebounds, eight assists and two steals.

Toni Kukoc contributed 21 points, including 13 in the third quarter when no one else was producing, and Phippen had 17 points, 12 rebounds, 3 assists and 2 steals.

Reggie Miller led Indiana with 22 points, but he was nowhere to be found late in the fourth quarter as Jordan guarded him tightly.

The key statistical difference was rebounding, as Chicago grabbed 50 to Indiana's 34. On the offensive end, it was 22-4 in favor of the Bulls.

Both teams struggled from the foul line, the Pacers shooting 23-for-37 (62 percent) and the Bulls making only 24 of 41 (58%).

Jordan surpassed Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's career playoff scoring record of 5,762 points early in the second quarter with two baskets. Jordan also had an assist on Steve Kerr's 3-pointer in a 7-0 run that tied it 28-28.

The Bulls also tightened their defense in the second quarter, whether it was Jordan gluing himself to Miller or Phippen swooping down to double-team any time Indiana got the ball in the low post. The result was Indiana missing eight of its first 10 shots in the quarter to fall behind 40-33.

Chicago also was beating the Pacers on the offensive boards. When Ron Harper tipped in a miss with one minute left, the Bulls had a 13-1 edge in offensive rebounds and led 46-39.

Miller then hit two 3-pointers in the final 30 seconds to help Indiana pull to 48-45 at halftime.

Indiana 27 18 20 18-38
Chicago 19 28 21 19-40

INDIANA (88) Miller 35-17, D.Davis 3-0-3, 10, Steve Kerr 3-7-4, 13, Jackson 5-8-3-11, Miller 7-13-4-22, A.Davis 2-4-2-7, McKee 1-4-1-2, 3, Phippen 3-4-1-3-7, Best 2-0-0-1-4, Total 27-48-22-37 65.

CHICAGO (88) Phippen 6-10-5-17, Kukoc 7-11-4-8-21, Longley 1-5-1-2-3, Harper 1-4-2-6-4, Jordan 9-25-10-12-28, Rooks 1-4-0-2-2, Burrell 1-1-0-0-2, Kerr 3-7-2-11, Buechler 0-1-0-0-0, Simpkins 0-0-0-0-0, Total 29-76-24-41 88.

Fouled out: Davis, Rebounds: Indiana 47 (A.Davis 10), Chicago 50 (Phippen 12), Assists: Indiana 18 (Jackson 8), Chicago 15 (Jordan 8), Total fouls: Indiana 35, Chicago 30, Technical: Harper, A-23, B-44.

Top Scorers
NBA career playoff leaders (through May 31):

1. Michael Jordan 5,735
2. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar 5,762
3. Jerry West 4,457
4. Larry Bird 3,897
5. John Havlicek 3,776
6. Magic Johnson 3,701
7. Elgin Baylor 3,524
8. Wilt Chamberlain 3,507
9. Bill Russell 3,541
10. Bob Pettit 3,541



DRIVING TO UTAH — Michael Jordan drives around Pacers' Reggie Miller in third-quarter action. Jordan scored 28 points in Chicago's 7th-game win.

Bird Song

CHICAGO (AP) — Larry Bird walked off the court with that same, lifeless expression he's worn throughout the playoffs — the whole season, actually — on his face.

He didn't get his team an NBA championship like he wanted, and his golf game has suffered these past few months. Maybe coaching really isn't Larry Legend's thing.

Not true, Bird insists. Sure, he's disappointed the Indiana Pacers lost. And, yes, he knows some zombies show more life than he does on the bench.

But, honest, he really is enjoying himself. "It's been an enjoyable year. I've seen my team grow. We've done a good job of staying focused and together. I didn't get them where I wanted to take them, though," he said.

"I'll talk to my players and see if they like the way they're going or whether they want someone else to lead them."

If all Bird wants is the players' endorsement, he can start drawing up plays for next year right now. A year after missing the playoffs, the Pacers won a franchise-record 58 games and took the five-time NBA champions to seven games. Bird got the NBA's coach of the year award.

Ask any one of the Pacers, and they'll give Bird all the credit.

"He was truly coach of the year," Mark Jackson said. "He did a brilliant job, he made the game fun for us."

When Indiana was stymied by Chicago's defensive matchups in Game 1 and 2, much was made of coach Phil Jackson's strategic brilliance. More than a few wondered if Bird was finally in over his head.

But he adjusted. Mark Jackson couldn't break Scottie Phippen's pressure, so Bird went with Travis Best. Chris Mullin was nowhere to be found offensively, so he played Jalen Rose. Reggie Miller couldn't handle Michael Jordan, so he went with defense-by-committee, rotating Miller, Rose, Derrick McKee and anyone else he fancied.

The Bulls beat the Pacers because Phil Jackson has been doing this a lot longer than Bird. But if Jackson goes, as he's promised and Bird stays, as he should, then one day, there'll be a different song.

Bulls expect tougher time against Jazz

By GARY HILL

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah (Reuters) — The road to another championship doesn't get any easier for Michael Jordan and the Chicago Bulls. Now they must face Karl Malone and the Utah Jazz in the NBA Finals for the second straight year.

"Utah's back there waiting for us. They've got the home-court advantage this year. It's going to be even tougher," said Michael Jordan. As Game 1 against Utah looms tomorrow, the Bulls, seeking their sixth NBA crown in Jordan's last six full seasons and aware that this could be their final season together, headed huffing and puffing into the best-of-seven championship series with just two days to rest and prepare.

The Jazz, who efficiently swept the brash Los Angeles Lakers in four games to win the West, will have had 10 days.

For Malone, the Bulls-Pacers series could not have turned out better. "I was rooting for the East final to go seven games because whoever comes out of it has only two or three days to rest," the game's premier power forward and last year's Most Valuable Player said.

"Hopefully, they'll be nice and tender for us." With nine seconds left in Sunday's game, Jordan looked exhausted, bending over clutching his knees, breathing heavily, his face contorted. Afterwards, he spoke of using the short time off to clear his mind and focus on the next job.

But too much rest can bring rust. Utah swingman Bryon Russell is impatient to get started.

Teammate Shandon Anderson says the Jazz are tired of playing against one another.

"You have to tone down some things because you don't want to beat your teammates up," said Anderson. "You don't want to set illegal picks or bowl over your teammates because someone might get hurt. I can't wait to finally start playing somebody else soon." Utah coach Jerry Sloan blasted his team for laziness in practice last week. But that may have been more ritual than reality, for Malone and all-time assists leader John Stockton will never let the Jazz be outworked when it counts.

They are the first repeat Finals opponent the Bulls have ever had. The last five times that teams met in the Finals twice in a row, the previous year's loser won the rematch.

And the Jazz won both meetings of the regular season, which is how they earned the home-court edge that Chicago enjoyed in four of its five previous championship runs. Only in 1993, when the Bulls beat Charles Barkley's Phoenix Suns in six games, did they start on the road.

"(Chicago's) not having home court is going to definitely be to Utah's advantage," said Jordan, who won his fifth NBA Most Valuable Player award this year.

"Utah is a tough team for us to match up against," said Chicago coach Phil Jackson. "They have more poise than almost any team in the league. The Jazz have all their key players back from last year, and young players like Russell, Anderson and backup point guard Howard Easley — whose quickness, like his Indiana counterpart Travis Best's, could give Chicago trouble — have

another year's experience.

Most of the Chicago players, although veterans themselves, also have just experienced a new level of pressure.

"We had never been in a Game 7 before, it was uncharted waters," said Chicago's Toni Kukoc, whose 14-point third-quarter explosion was a key to keeping the Bulls afloat against the Pacers, along with Scottie Phippen's ball-hawking.

But ultimately, as it always does, it all came down to Jordan, whose 28 points Sunday lifted him past Kareem Abdul-Jabbar as the NBA's all-time leading playoff scorer.

He was the main ingredient in the Bulls' first trio of championships. He went off to play baseball, and they failed to make the Finals. He came back, and they won two more titles.

Will he be gone again next year? Although the rhetoric from all sides has softened a bit lately, Jordan has said he would not come back unless Jackson does, and the coach and management are miles apart.

Also, Phippen is eyeing greener pastures, and rebounding specialist Dennis Rodman has said he might like to take his ever evolving fashion statement to Hollywood, or at least the Lakers.

But first there is the matter of that sixth championship ring for Jordan, Phippen and Jackson, and third for most of the others.

"We defended our title so far, but the biggest test is to come," said Phippen. "Utah is rested, we are exhausted. But I think we will win." Said Jordan: "A lot of people may say that we're tired, but our hearts are not tired."

Lack of fitness costs Gascoigne dear

By PHIL MINSHALL

LA MANGA, Spain, (Reuters) — England coach Glenn Hoddle said yesterday that Paul Gascoigne's lack of fitness and form had cost him a place in England's World Cup squad.

Hoddle said Gascoigne had been omitted "totally on his fitness levels and the form he's been in during the last three matches." "We ran out of time to get him as fit as I think we needed him for the World Cup in two weeks' time," Hoddle added.

"It's 1998 and you have to be an athlete. I watch Germany and Brazil and they have excellent players but also athletes."

"Unfortunately Paul did not come into that category in the last days." The England coach, who announced his 22-man squad on Sunday evening, said Gascoigne had been bitterly disappointed to learn he was not going to play in his second World Cup finals.

"Yes, there were tears in his eyes when he was with me. He was very upset," Hoddle said.

The Middlesbrough midfielder was the sole survivor of England's last World Cup appearance in 1990.

Hoddle said it had been particularly

unfortunate that Gascoigne had not been able to play for the full 90 minutes in the King Hassan II Cup match against Belgium on Friday.

"We had to take him off without another 90 minutes under his belt," Hoddle said.

"It is a shame — I'll miss both him and (injured Arsenal striker) Ian Wright because both are bubbly characters but I've always said that people would not be in this 22 because of character."

"He (Gascoigne) has had his injuries over the last three or four months and has not got himself fit. This World Cup has come around too quick for him."

"We've played Paul before when he's not been 100 percent fit but those were one-off matches and this is the World Cup."

It's the biggest tournament in the world and there are seven matches to play. Gascoigne, 31, was the most surprising omission from a squad of 22 players named to go to France '98.

Hoddle had originally planned to name the squad yesterday but brought forward the announcement after a tabloid newspaper learned that Gascoigne was out.

The remaining England players

were refused permission to speak to the media about the effect of Gascoigne's absence and left the team hotel to get a plane back to England before yesterday's news conference started.

Hoddle conceded that the departure of Gascoigne and five other England World Cup hopefuls had inevitably dampened the mood of the squad on Sunday but said that the atmosphere was returning to normal.

"There was a feeling among the camp that it was a strange day but at training (yesterday morning) the spirit was good and it went well," Hoddle said.

All six omitted players — Gascoigne, Ian-Walker, Nicky Butt, Phil Neville, Andy Hinchcliffe and Dion Dublin — were taken to a nearby airport to be flown back to England on Sunday within 45 minutes of being told they would not be going to France.

Hoddle refused to be drawn on whether revelations in the British media about Gascoigne's alleged late-night partying, including an incident last month when he was photographed eating a kebabs, had played a part in his decision.

However he admitted that he

would not have expected such behavior from any of his players. "Certainly not if he is on England duty," Hoddle said the decision to leave out Gascoigne had not been his hardest one.

He opted to include Tottenham striker Les Ferdinand ahead of Dion Dublin, when many pundits had expected the Coventry man to be chosen instead.

Hoddle had nothing but praise for Dublin but said that Ferdinand's speed had made his mind up.

"Dion was so close to getting in. He's done fantastically well and done himself a lot of favors with me but I felt we needed pace up front." Ferdinand's cousin Rio was also a slightly surprising inclusion but Hoddle said the West Ham defender had a bright future ahead of him.

"Rio's done a lot to improve his defensive skills and on the ball he's significant. Maybe in time he'll become a sweeper and I'll be able to adopt a system I'd love to play." Hoddle said that he felt Manchester United's Phil Neville, one of his other options in defence, had not been in the best of form recently while Sheffield Wednesday player Hinchcliffe failed a fitness test on thigh strain on Sunday.

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